PhD Position Opening

Dr. Tiffany Messer is seeking one Ph.D. student to investigate drivers of photodegradation and biogeochemical processes of insecticides in rivers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln starting in the Summer 2018 or Fall 2018 term. Our research team focuses on identifying, tracing, and treating contaminants of emerging concern and nutrients in highly disturbed ecosystems through innovative sensor technologies for water quality monitoring and ecosystem based Best Management Practices. The student’s research will focus on quantifying the potential role of river geomorphology on photochemical transformation fate and degradation rates of two neonicotinoid insecticides that are contaminants of emerging concern (CECs): Imidacloprid and Clothianidin. More information about the Messer Lab can be found at [https://engineering.unl.edu/messerresearch/](https://engineering.unl.edu/messerresearch/).

Student support will be provided through funding from the USDA through a collaborative project between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Duke University. Ability and interest to work in both field and laboratory settings is vital, and travel will be necessary for work in North Carolina. Graduate school applicants will need a background in one or more of the following areas: agricultural/biological engineering, chemical engineering, biogeochemistry, and/or civil engineering. Candidates with general programming skills (e.g., Matlab, R Studio, SAS), strong technical writing records, and enthusiasm for research are encouraged to apply.

Dr. Messer and her team are committed to an inclusive lab environment and encourage students from underrepresented groups to apply. Further, the University of Nebraska Lincoln has numerous resources to create a welcoming environment for all people (e.g., Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Women’s Center, Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services-OASIS).

Students will join the [Biological Systems Engineering Department](http://engineering.unl.edu/bse/graduate-programs/). Information on the graduate programs and admission can be found at [http://engineering.unl.edu/bse/graduate-programs/](http://engineering.unl.edu/bse/graduate-programs/).

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Tiffany Messer directly at [tiffany.messer@unl.edu](mailto:tiffany.messer@unl.edu) with their resume or CV and research interests.