

TRIA-FoR Field Research Technician

University of Alberta

SCI Biological Sciences

Competition No. - S104848973

Posting Date - Nov 08, 2022

Closing Date - Jan 15, 2023

Position Type - Full Time - Grant Funded

Salary Range - \$46,627 to \$62,954 per year

Grade - 07

Hours - 35

This competition will be used to fill 2 positions.

These positions are a part of the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA).

These positions have a term length of 2 years with the possibility of extension and offers a comprehensive benefits package which can be viewed on our [Benefits Overview page](#).

Location

This is an in-person position at North Campus Edmonton.

Working for the University of Alberta

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

The University of Alberta is teeming with change makers, community builders, and world shapers who lead with purpose each and every day. We are home to more than 40,000 students in 200+ undergraduate and 500+ graduate programs, over 13,000 faculty and staff, 260,000 alumni worldwide and have been recognized as one of Canada's Greenest Employers for over a decade.

Your work will have a meaningful influence on a fascinating cross section of people—from our students and stakeholders, to our renowned researchers and innovators who

are quite literally curing diseases, making discoveries and generating solutions that make the world healthier, safer, stronger, and more just.

Position

This Research Technician position is under the direction of the Project Manager and Project Leads. The candidate will carry out field and laboratory-based activities within the TRIA-FoR Project, a national scale, multidisciplinary network focused on mountain pine beetle and pine research. The candidate will work as part of a small team that will carry out field studies and associated activities aligned with multiple projects within this large-scale research program. The candidate will plan, execute, and follow up on coordinated field activities throughout the calendar year involving ground observations, sample and data collection, and field experimentation. In the laboratory and field, the candidate will conduct routine data entry and basic analysis, as well as routine sample preparation and analyses to support molecular biology, biochemical, chemical ecology, and physiological experiments.

In conjunction with senior project personnel, the candidate will plan, coordinate and execute field work, including but not limited to: preparation of field activity plans, applications for permits, communication with key personnel at provincial agencies and other partner organizations, team coordination, travel logistics, and plans for adherence to all jurisdictional policies and laws. For field activities, the candidate will carry out a wide array of tasks, including but not limited to: site identification, sample identification, GPS location tracking for sampling sites, tree and beetle sampling, sample preparation and analysis, accurate record keeping and sample tracking, maintenance, inventory and safety.

Procedures performed by the candidate are usually covered by standard operating procedures and will require use of tools and specialized instrumentation. In some cases, the candidate will develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) specific to particular field tasks. The candidate will be required to make decisions on a daily basis to successfully complete assigned tasks, make routine decisions about experimental status and process, and routine independent decisions with regard to field activities. The candidate will be encouraged to seek input from the supervisor or other lab members when faced with a non-routine decision.

Duties

- Plan, coordinate, execute and follow up on field activities, ensuring that all activities are compliant with university, provincial and federal policies. Develop field activity plans and submit for institutional approval. Ensure that field activity plans are kept up to date and conduct safety-related activities such as hazard assessments and training of new personnel.
- Communicate regularly with principal investigators and other project personnel, government agencies, forest companies, and collaborators.

- Carry out experiments and assist project personnel such as students and postdoc with experiments in the field. Field sites will be located throughout a broad geographic range in Alberta and British Columbia and may also include sites in other western provinces and territories.
- Conduct field data collection, data recording, data entry and routine data analyses. Collect experimental materials from forest stands, including tree and mountain pine beetle samples. Assist with routine sample preparation in the laboratory according to standard operating procedures. Assist with plant experiments conducted in the phytotron facilities at the University of Alberta.
- Prepare written reports providing detailed information on field activities, with a focus on methodologies used for experiment execution and sample collection.
- Maintain field equipment. Place orders for equipment parts, supplies and other necessary materials. As necessary, purchase supplies while conducting field work.

Minimum Qualifications

- A minimum of a 2-year diploma in Forestry, Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, or related field.
- An unrestricted Class 5 driver's license and acceptable vision required. Experience driving on gravel roads highly desirable. Experience with towing trailers preferred.
- At least 12 months' relevant experience required. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated field experience.
- Demonstrated skills with Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) and Google applications (Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides) required.
- Familiarity with workplace health and safety best practices required. Completion of Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) training highly desirable. Completion of additional workplace health and safety training modules an asset.
- Experience with GPS navigation and GPS devices required.
- Demonstrated ability to use online and printed maps required. Experience with parcel, aerial and plant maps preferred.
- Willingness to travel to locations outside of Edmonton for days at a time essential. Willingness to conduct field work in all four seasons essential.
- Strong oral and written communication skills essential.

- Demonstration of positive people skills facilitating teamwork and collaboration with others required.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in the use of a chainsaw preferred. Willingness to obtain chainsaw certification and carry out activities requiring chainsaw skills essential.
- Experience with field equipment such as pole pruners, axes, cordless drills, and increment borers desirable.
- Experience piloting unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) considered an asset.
- Experience handling large numbers of samples desirable.
- Ability to accurately identify lodgepole pine, jack pine and mountain pine beetle in the field considered an asset.
- Prior experience working with plants, including plant care, is desirable.
- Demonstrated abilities with respect to organization, attentiveness to detail, and ability to conduct work accurately essential. Experience with administrative documentation such as permits considered an asset.

Note: Online applications are accepted until midnight Mountain Standard Time of the closing date.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

The University of Alberta is committed to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive workforce. We welcome applications from all qualified persons. We encourage women; First Nations, Metis and Inuit persons; members of visible minority groups; persons with disabilities; persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity and expression; and all those who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas and the University to apply.

To apply, please visit: <https://apptrkr.com/3617759>

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