

## **Ph.D. Assistantship: Tropical forest physiological responses to warming and hurricanes**

Seeking outstanding applicants for a Ph.D. assistantship investigating the combined effects of climatic change and hurricane disturbance on tropical forest tree physiology. This assistantship will primarily involve taking on the ecophysiological components of TRACE (Tropical Responses to Altered Climate Experiment) in the Luquillo Experimental Forest, Puerto Rico. TRACE is the first ever tropical forest warming experiment, and we have an unprecedented opportunity to further investigate the effects of the 2017 hurricanes Irma and Maria on this experimental system. For more information about the TRACE, see [www.forestwarming.org](http://www.forestwarming.org).

Applicant must have obtained an undergraduate degree in biology, ecology, or forestry-related field. A strong analytical background and excellent writing, communication, and quantitative skills are required. Preferred qualifications include field-based experience working with plants, familiarity with statistical software, and experience working with and trouble-shooting field or lab instrumentation. Preference will be given to applicants with a Master's degree in forest ecology, plant physiology, or related field. Spanish language skills would also be beneficial.

The student would be based in Houghton, Michigan within the School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science at Michigan Technological University. Michigan Tech is located in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula on the south shore of Lake Superior, an excellent place for outdoor adventure. Houghton, Michigan is a safe, inexpensive, and friendly community (for more about life in Houghton, see: [www.mtu.edu/international/admissions/community/](http://www.mtu.edu/international/admissions/community/)).

This position is fully funded for the first three years by the U.S. Department of Energy, and the student would be expected to write proposals in order to secure funding for the fourth year of the assistantship. The position will require several 1-3 month measurement campaigns in Puerto Rico during both summer and winter breaks.

Applicants should create a single pdf that includes the following: cover letter, curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts, unofficial general GRE scores (if available), and contact information for three references. In the cover letter, please include a clear statement of purpose, including what topics of scientific inquiry are most interesting and inspiring to you and what makes you uniquely qualified for this position. Please email the pdf as an attachment to Dr. Molly Cavaleri ([macavale@mtu.edu](mailto:macavale@mtu.edu)) with "TRACE PhD Assistantship" in the subject line. The pdf should be named with the first and last name of the applicant. Screening of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Desirable applicants will be invited to apply for admission to the graduate program in Michigan Tech's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science ([forest.mtu.edu](http://forest.mtu.edu)), preferably for a January 2019 start date.