Ph.D. Assistantship available in Soil Microbial Ecology and Biochemistry

The Slaughter lab in the Texas Tech University Department of Plant and Soil Science (https://www.depts.ttu.edu/pss/) in Lubbock, TX is seeking a Ph.D. student to begin in August 2021, although an earlier start date may be negotiated. The assistantship provides a 12-month stipend, tuition coverage, and health insurance for three years. The student will participate in a funded research project to determine how legume inclusion and management mechanistically influence production and consumption of greenhouse gases, particularly methane (CH₄), by soil microorganisms in grazed semi-arid pasture ecosystems. This research is part of a multi-disciplinary effort to design management strategies that convert limited water and nutrient supplies in semi-arid environments into profitable plant and livestock commodities while building productive, climate-resilient soils.

Applicants should have an M.S. degree in soil science, microbiology, or a related field and have experience in conducting independent research. Prior experience with soil physical, chemical, and biological measurements, statistical analysis, amplicon sequencing, and/or qPCR analysis is preferred. Applicants should be self-motivated and have excellent written and oral communication skills, management and organization skills, and the ability to work both individually and with a diverse team of fellow researchers. A valid U.S. driver license is required for travel to field sites. The student will be expected to work in laboratory, greenhouse, and field settings that may involve hot and dry conditions.

Interested students should send application materials and/or questions directly to Dr. Lindsey Slaughter (lindsey.slaughter@ttu.edu). Application materials must include a CV, a cover letter describing research experience, interests, and qualifications, unofficial transcripts, GRE and TOEFL scores if applicable, and the names and contact information for three references. Application materials should be submitted before March 5, 2021 to be given full consideration.