



**Department of Soil and
Environmental Sciences**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

PhD position in plant-soil-microbe interactions for sustainable *Cannabis* production

Summary: Dr. Zac Freedman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is recruiting a PhD student to start in Summer or Fall 2027. The student's project will aim to inform and improve sustainable *Cannabis* production by examining the microbiome, plant, and soil impacts of *Cannabis* domestication, and to explore the potential for *Cannabis* "rewilding" to improve plant and soil quality while reducing fertilizer demand. Competitive applicants will have a strong interest in soil ecology, biogeochemistry, plant-microbe interactions or related fields. They will also have a commitment to contributing to a collaborative, inclusive and fun learning environment. Some experience with assessments of soil microbial composition and functions, root trait analysis, and comfort with statistical modeling using R is preferred.

Tuition Waiver and Stipend: The selected applicant will be appointed as a Graduate Research Assistant with a stipend of at least \$39,288 per year plus health benefits and tuition remission.

To Apply: Interested students should apply to the Soil Science Graduate Program within the UW-Madison Graduate School (due January 5th; GRE not required; <https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>). Prior to applying, interested students are strongly advised to e-mail Dr. Freedman at zfreedman@wisc.edu with the following information: 1) a CV, 2) a 1-2 page personal statement describing your scientific interests and career objectives, 3) transcripts (unofficial is OK), and 4) contact information for 2-3 references. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

University and Community: UW-Madison has a strong culture of collaboration across fields, and the selected graduate student will interact with researchers from diverse fields, including soil science, ecology, environmental science, microbiology, and agronomy. The university ranks consistently among the top research universities in the United States. Total student enrollment is 43,000 of which approximately 12,000 are graduate and professional students, and there are over 2,000 faculty. UW-Madison is an exciting place to learn and conduct research! The city of Madison ranks as one of the most attractive places in the U.S. to live and work. For information about the campus and city, please see <http://www.wisc.edu/about/>

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. We promote excellence through diversity and encourage all qualified individuals to apply.