

PhD Graduate Assistantship Announcement

Dr. Denis Valle, Assistant Professor in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida (UF), is now accepting applications for 2 PhD Graduate Research Assistantship positions. Research in my group focuses on tackling important environmental science and environmental health problems by creating and using innovative Bayesian statistical models. Examples of this work include Valle and Clark 2013 (PLOS Computational Biology) and Valle et al 2014 (Ecology Letters).

The assistantship includes full tuition coverage, Gator Grad Care health insurance, and a yearly salary of \$22,000 for up to four years. The position will be located at the UF campus in Gainesville, FL.

Current projects focus on developing mixed-membership clustering methods for human movement, forest biodiversity, and disease data; modeling malaria in Ghana (risk factors and spatial patterns); and determining the public health impact of hydroelectric dams in the Brazilian Amazon region. This project will benefit from large-scale datasets from my group as well as ongoing interdisciplinary collaborations. Potential field trips might be required. Duties include writing and presenting result of research in scientific conferences, searching and applying for additional sources of funding, and assisting other students within the team on field activities or statistical analyses, among others. Student will also be required to serve as a teaching assistant for one course per year and will be expected to produce manuscripts for publication in top scientific journals.

Applicants should be highly motivated and enthusiastic. Furthermore, applicants should have:

- * Prior experience with the statistical software R.
- * Prior experience with GIS
- * Strong background on environmental sciences and/or public health with experience in (or want to become proficient on) advanced statistical Bayesian models. Alternatively, this position could also be filled by someone with a strong quantitative background (e.g., statistics or engineering) who wants to learn more about environmental science and public health.
- * GRE minimum scores of 153 Verbal; 155 Quantitative; Analytical/writing 4
- * MS degree with GPA exceeding 3.5. Exceptional candidates without an MS may be considered.
- * Prior computer programming experience is a plus

The candidate must meet the formal admission requirements for the University of Florida and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. (<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/academics/how-to-apply/>) Additional information on my research and myself can be found at <http://sfrc.ufl.edu/people/faculty/valle/>.

If interested, please email the items listed below to <<mailto:drvalle@ufl.edu>> drvalle@ufl.edu or formally apply to UF Admissions <<http://www.admissions.ufl.edu>> www.admissions.ufl.edu and include the documents listed below:

- * One page cover letter to include a brief review of your research experience, interests and goals
- * CV with contact information
- * GRE scores and percentiles
- * Transcripts (unofficial) from all previous colleges and universities
- * Three academic references