

A postdoctoral research associate position is available in the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the Lipka laboratory. Funding is available for two years, renewable on an annual basis.

Specific duties and responsibilities

The Lipka lab is seeking a postdoctoral research associate who will help assess the impact of genomic selection on the development of disease resistant miscane cultivars. Primary responsibilities of the researcher will be to develop and write computational pipelines, with guidance from the PI, that assess the ability of advanced genomic selection models to predict which plants have optimal disease resistance. The researcher will be expected to perform data analysis in a timely and efficient manner, interpret the findings within a biological context, and to present the results in peer-reviewed publications and at conferences. Secondary responsibilities will include conducting molecular biology laboratory work to obtain SNP markers for one or more of the study populations.

Required Qualifications

The incumbent must have a PhD in quantitative genetics, statistics (with an emphasis on subjects applied to quantitative genetics), or a related field.

They must have received their degree within the past five years to qualify for this position. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with the basic statistical theory underlying genomic selection, the different statistical models that are most widely used in genomic selection, conducting analyses such as k -fold cross validation, and interpreting the results within the context of plant breeding. Additional desired skills include experience in programming in languages such as R, exemplary time management and organizational skills, and proficiency in writing and presenting research to an interdisciplinary audience.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter of research interests, CV, and three references to Prof. Alexander E. Lipka (alipka@illinois.edu).

The University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer.

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