

UF/IFAS
School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences

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M.S. Position: Using native and ornamental stormwater pond plantings to protect water quality

Overview: The Residential Landscape Ecology Lab of Dr. Basil Iannone (<https://rle-iannone.com>) in the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatic Sciences (<https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu>) at the University of Florida is seeking a creative and motivated MS student to start in August 2022. This position includes competitive stipend, tuition waiver, and benefits.

Review of applications will begin immediately

Duties: Stormwater ponds are an increasingly common engineered ecosystem (> 76,000 in Florida alone). However, they are not protecting natural water bodies from high-nutrient urban runoff as intended. Incorporating plants into stormwater ponds is proposed as a strategy to improve water quality and enhance urban biodiversity. The candidate will lead fieldwork to quantify effects of native and ornamental plants in stormwater ponds on water quality, conduct data analyses, write project reports, and communicate/report research findings. They will also work with an interdisciplinary team consisting of ecologists, biogeochemists, stormwater engineers, social scientists, and Extension professionals on educational outreach and to identify strategies to increase the willingness of stakeholders to adopt best management practice.

Qualifications: Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in a relevant field and be interested in leading interdisciplinary research, scientific outreach, and urban ecology. Experience working on urban ecology, plant ecology, and/or water quality projects is desired but not necessary.

To apply: Email the following as a single document to Dr. Basil Iannone (biannone@ufl.edu), making sure to state "stormwater pond MS position" in the subject: (1) Cover Letter stating your (a) research/career goals, (b) your experience that qualifies for this position, and (c) how you would benefit from this opportunity; (2) C.V.; (3) unofficial transcripts; and (4) contact information for three professional/academic references that can speak to your ability to succeed in a graduate program and as a project leader.

Please contact Dr. Basil Iannone with any questions at biannone@ufl.edu. The selected student will also be a member of the Center for Land Use Efficiency (<https://clue.ifas.ufl.edu/>).

NOTE: Formal acceptance to UF will require official transcripts and a completed application packet by January 1st, 2022. Do not send GRE scores, as they are not required for admission into the SFFGS program and will not be used for evaluation of candidates.