

Postdoctoral Scholar in Entomology

Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center

The Department of Entomology at the University of California, Riverside invites applicants for a full-time Postdoctoral Scholar to participate in a USDA TASC funded research project that focuses on critical pest-related trade barriers for California citrus exports. The goal of this research is to develop an effective applied pest management approach based on understanding of the pest biology. The successful candidate will evaluate response to different events in postharvest systems to control insects and mites of export concern to California citrus growers, and effects of treatment on fruit quality. The Postdoctoral Scholar will be expected to coordinate efforts with USDA and UCR collaborators to design and conduct experiments, analyze data and write manuscripts for peer-reviewed publications. The position will be housed at the Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier, California. Working in this multi-institutional project will also allow a successful candidate unique opportunity to collaborate with researchers from the USDA ARS, UC campuses and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Division. This is a term-limited position with option to renew based on performance and availability of funding. The incumbent will be encouraged to participate in the development of promising projects for continued funding.

Job duties will include:

- 70% - Design and conduct experiments, to evaluate the efficacy of postharvest system actions to control insects and mites of export significance.
- 20% - Work with staff research associates to maintain the colonies of insects and mites for experiments.
- 10% - Write technical reports, prepare and submit manuscripts, and participate in grower meetings and present findings.

The Required qualification for this position is a Ph.D. in Entomology, Botany, or a related field. Ph.D. candidates must have their degree by the date of hire.

Preferred qualifications for this position include:

- Demonstrated experience in conducting applied research for pest management, especially in postharvest systems.
- Experience working with fumigants is a plus.
- Strong data analytical skills and publication record.

UCR is a world-class research university with an exceptionally diverse undergraduate student body. Its mission is explicitly linked to providing routes to educational success for underrepresented and first-generation college students. A commitment to this mission is a preferred qualification.

Additional qualifications for this position include:

- Knowledge of citrus export concern pests such as Asian citrus psyllid, California red scale, bean thrips, Fuller rose beetle, and mites.
- Ability to operate a microscope for extended periods of time.
- Knowledge of fumigants and commodity fumigation for pest management.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

To apply: submit a single PDF file containing a C.V., a cover letter describing your research experience and career goals, and contact information for three references via email to Dr. Sandipa Gautam, at sangautam@ucanr.edu. Review of applications will commence on December 7, 2020 and will proceed until the position is filled. For full consideration, applicants should submit their complete applications prior to the above date.

For more information about this position, please contact Dr. Sandipa Gautam, Assistant Professional Researcher, Department of Entomology, at sangautam@ucanr.edu.

