

PhD Position in Soil Health and Pastoral Grassland Ecology

We are recruiting a PhD student to study the soil health and ecosystem ecology of pastoral agroecosystems in the French Pyrenees as part of an US-NSF-funded project with collaborators in France and Spain. The student will be enrolled at the University of Georgia, USA but will spend significant field time in the French Pyrenees and be co-advised by Rebecca McCulley (U Kentucky) and Aaron Thompson (U Georgia). The project uses transdisciplinary approaches (co-production of knowledge with farmers and other stakeholders) to understand and predict how climate,



policy, and social change will impact the socioecological system of pastoralism that is deeply rooted in Basque culture. This student will work as part of an interdisciplinary team of social and natural scientists from the US, France, and Spain. The student's primary responsibilities will be quantifying soil and plant ecosystem health and stocks across a range of active and abandoned pastures. The student will also be expected to assist and co-train in social science data collection and interact with climate/agroecosystem modelers.

Desired qualifications include experience with a variety of soil and plant measurements, knowledge of and interest in pastoral systems, strong statistical, oral and written communication skills, demonstrated effectiveness working in diverse teams and independently, experience conducting remote field work, an MS degree in a related field of study, and proficiency in French. To learn more about our research groups, please visit www.mcculleylab.org and Thompsonlab.uga.edu.

We hope to select an applicant through an advanced review process so that an official application can be submitted through the UGA graduate school (<http://www.grad.uga.edu/>) by January 1, 2023, but at the latest by April 2023 for admission in Fall 2023. Interested candidates should send their CV and a cover letter to Aaron Thompson(AaronT@uga.edu) with PASTORAL PhD in the subject line as soon as possible.

The successful student will receive a competitive stipend for up to 5 years along with a tuition waiver. Athens, Georgia is an quirky, music-centric town in the Piedmont of the Appalachian Mountains with ample outdoor activities and a mild-winter climate. Summers will be spent in the French Pyrenees.

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.