



UF/IFAS

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Field & Fork Campus Food Program
PO Box 110270, Gainesville, FL 32611-0270

Field & Fork Graduate Assistantship

The Field & Fork Campus Food Program is offering a graduate assistantship to conduct research on sustainable agriculture and food systems. The graduate assistantship is for two years (Fall 2023 – Summer 2025) at the MS level, and consists of a 0.5 FTE (20 hours per week) commitment to working with the program (see below for assistantship duties). A tuition waiver is included in the assistantship.

Preference will be given to those interested in conducting research with clear applications for improving the sustainability of Florida food systems, including urban farms and issues of food security. Projects within any discipline (e.g., agronomy, horticultural sciences, entomology, soil and water science, agricultural education and communication, nutrition, etc.) are welcome, and those emphasizing connections to the Field & Fork Program will be prioritized. Land area is potentially available at the Field & Fork Farm and Gardens for research plots, depending on the scope and demands of the study.

Interested applicants should reach out to potential advisors in academic units within the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) to develop a project. The applicant-advisor pair should submit the following materials to Anna Prizzia (aprizzia@ufl.edu) by **January 25, 2023**:

- 1) A **joint letter** of interest (max. 2 pages) sharing an overview of the research proposal, how their respective scientific interests and skill sets align with the Field & Fork program, and the contribution of the proposed research to sustainable agriculture and food systems.
- 2) A resume from the faculty advisor and from the applicant.

Applicants must also ensure that they meet the admission criteria of the academic unit where they would complete their graduate research, should they be selected for the assistantship.

Assistantship duties:

- Create a robust research project related to sustainable agriculture and food systems, and coordinate with advisor, committee, and Field & Fork staff to implement it.
- Assist with the Field & Fork Program's core mission activities of sustainable food production, facilitation of experiential learning, and development of extension/outreach activities. This involves at least 10 hours a week completing program-related tasks, under the direction of the Field & Fork staff. The additional 10 hours a week are for the MS research project related tasks.
- Work with and manage volunteers as necessary.
- Collect and manage data and report regularly on progress.

Given the time commitment allocated to fulfill the assistantship, part of which will be engaging in farm work, applicants should have a strong interest in learning and conducting a variety of farming tasks outside, in potentially harsh conditions (insects, weather, etc.). Prior experience in farming and team leadership is an asset, but not a requirement. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Anna Prizzia (aprizzia@ufl.edu).