

## Soil microbial ecology and biogeochemistry undergraduate research technicians

### Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

The Kent Lab (<https://microbiome.nres.illinois.edu>), based at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is recruiting undergraduate hourly research technicians to assist with lab research in soil microbial ecology, biogeochemistry, and crop science. Our research group focuses on understanding the nitrogen cycling microbial community in agricultural ecosystems. We are also interested in exploring and harnessing beneficial microbial traits to improve soil health and inform future plant breeding.

Duties will include, but are not limited to:

- Lab upkeep, maintenance of field and greenhouse experiments led by graduate students
- Soil N cycling assays such as nitrification, denitrification, and N<sub>2</sub> fixation
- Extracting and quantifying microbial DNA from soil samples in preparation for DNA sequencing
- Collecting greenhouse gas data
- Working outside during hot summer days

We are seeking applicants with a positive attitude, flexibility, attention to detail, interest in ecological or agricultural research, and the ability to work well both independently and as part of a team. Training will be provided for all procedures – if the applicants are willing to learn, we will provide adequate training and resources to ensure our employees develop the right skills for their jobs.

This position would begin as early as May 18 (with some flexibility) and continue through summer (with the option to continue research in the fall). Selected applicants would be scheduled to work ~30-40 hours a week (based on seniority) during the summer and 10-12 hours if you are enrolled in classes. The pay will be \$15/hour.

All applicants should email their resumés to Kristin Ellis ([kle132@illinois.edu](mailto:kle132@illinois.edu)). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. We are committed to creating a positive, safe, and inclusive environment for everyone working at the Kent lab. All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and national origin.

