

## **Open Letter to Students Interested in Texas A&M University's Department of Horticultural Sciences Graduate Programs:**

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Horticultural Sciences' graduate program at Texas A&M University (TAMU). Application deadlines for consideration of Departmental Teaching Assistantships for fall semesters are the preceding March 15. For spring or summer semesters, applications should be completed by September 15 of the preceding year. These deadlines can be somewhat flexible if you can find a faculty member to work with you who will be funding you on a grant-supported Research Assistantship. Highly competitive students looking to apply for University Fellowships and Scholarships should have their applications in by December 15 for the fall semester of the following year. University Fellowships and Scholarships are awarded early in spring for the coming fall.

The most critical aspect of your application to the Department of Horticultural Sciences at TAMU is contacting the faculty to find someone to work under. Investigate the faculty to determine which members are conducting research in your area of interest and contact them via email to determine whether they have any available positions. The faculty's contact information can be found at the Department of Horticulture Sciences' website: <https://hortsciences.tamu.edu/>. All other admission deadlines follow the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/admission/>.

Successful applicants to the Department's graduate programs typically have an undergraduate GPR of 3.00 or substantially better, strong letters of support for admission to the graduate program from faculty mentors, a well-written statement of purpose, high-impact experiential learning activities, and in the case of international students strongly demonstrated competency in English via TOEFL scores or other testing instruments. The graduate school typically requires a minimum official TOEFL (International students only) score of at least 80 (internet-based), 213 (computer-based), or 550 (paper-based).

All assistantships are awarded on a competitive basis. Some teaching assistantships are available from the Department and are assigned by the Associate Head for Graduate Programs on the recommendation of the teaching faculty. **Nearly all research assistantships are funded from grants held by individual faculty members, thus you should inquire about the availability of research assistantships from the individual faculty whose programs interest you. You should only go to the expense of applying if**

**there is a program in your area of interest that has an opening for a new graduate student.**

Information about the department, degrees offered, biographical information about our faculty and their research programs, and policies governing our graduate program can be found on our website at: <https://hortsciences.tamu.edu/>. Feel free to contact any of the faculty by email or phone to determine if they have an opening for a new graduate student.

**If you decide to apply, the online application form is available here:**

<https://admissions.tamu.edu/>. The application fee is paid online and is completed on the Office of Admissions website. Information about university codes is also on the Admissions website.

General information about graduate studies at Texas A&M University is available on the Graduate and Professional School home page at: <https://grad.tamu.edu/>.

Once all the information has been received from Admissions, the packet will be sent to our graduate faculty so that you can be evaluated for graduate studies in our Department. This process of faculty evaluation usually requires about one to three weeks after we receive the completed packet from the Office of Graduate Studies. I will inform you as soon as possible concerning the results.

Usually, delays in the process are caused by delayed receipt of letters of recommendation, transcripts, or TOEFL scores. Graduate Admissions will not release the application to the Department until all required information has been received.

Please contact us if you have additional questions or you may contact our Graduate Academic Advisor by email at [leann.hague@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:leann.hague@ag.tamu.edu).

Sincerely,

Dr. Oscar Riera-Lizarazu  
Associate Professor & Associate Head for Graduate Programs Department of  
Department of Horticultural Sciences  
Texas A&M University

Department of Horticultural Sciences  
202 Horticulture Forest Sciences Bldg | 2133 TAMU | College Station, TX 77843 | Map  
Phone: (979) 845-5269 | Fax: (979) 845-0627 |  
[hortsciences.tamu.edu](http://hortsciences.tamu.edu)

**Graduate faculty listed by area of specialization and (degrees that can be obtained under their direction).**

**Controlled Environment Agriculture**

On-Campus

Shuyang Zhen

Off-Campus

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Joe Masabni (Dallas)

Daniel Leskovar (Uvalde)

John Jifon (Weslaco)

**Floral Design and Event Planning (Horticulture)**

On-Campus

Bill McKinley

Off-Campus

**Food Science & Technology / Bioactive Compounds / Postharvest Physiology (Horticulture,**

**Food Science and Nutrition)**

On-Campus

Luis Cisneros-Zevallos

Bhimu Patil

M. Isabel Vales

Amit Dhingra

Off-Campus

**Genomics (Horticulture, MEPS)**

On-Campus

Patricia Klein

M. Isabel Vales

Oscar Riera-Lizarazu

Amit Dhingra

Off-Campus

**Greenhouse / Floriculture Production and Marketing (Horticulture)**

On-Campus

Charles Hall

Off-Campus

Brent Pemberton (Overton)

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Joe Masabni (Dallas)

**International Horticulture (Horticulture)**

On-Campus

Tim Davis

Bhimu Patil

Off-Campus

Daniel Leskovar (Uvalde)

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Joe Masabni (Dallas)

**Nursery / Floriculture Economics (Horticulture)**

On-Campus

Charles Hall

Off-Campus

**Ornamental Horticulture / Landscape Plant Establishment / Landscape Plant Development (Horticulture, MEPS, Plant Breeding)**

On-Campus

Michael Arnold

Off-Campus

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Oscar Riera-Lizarazu

Steve George (Dallas)

**Plant –Associated Microorganisms / Plant Health (Horticulture, MEPS)**

On-Campus

Elizabeth Pierson

Off-Campus

Veronica Ancona (Kingsville)

Greta Schuster (Kingsville)

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Madhurababu Kunta (Kingsville)

Mamoudou Setamou (Kingsville)

**Plant Physiology (Horticulture, MEPS)**

On-Campus

Patricia Klein

Hisashi Koiwa

Bhimu Patil

M. Isabel Vales

Elizabeth Pierson

Amit Dhingra

Shuyang Zhen

Off-Campus

John Jifon (Weslaco)

Daniel Leskovar (Uvalde)

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Vijay Joshi (Uvalde)

Joe Masabni (Dallas)

**Plant Breeding and Genetics (Horticulture, MEPS, Plant Breeding)**

On-Campus

M. Isabel Vales

Kevin Crosby

Patricia Klein

Oscar Riera-Lizarazu

Off-Campus

Vijay Joshi (Uvalde)

Xinwang Wang (USDA, College Station)

Eliezer Louzada (Kingsville)

Carlos Avila (Weslaco)

Subas Malla (Uvalde)

**Sociohorticulture / People:Plant Interactions (Horticulture)**

On-Campus

Charles Hall

Off-Campus

Tina Waliczek Cade (Texas State)

**Sustainable Horticulture Production / Nursery Production (Horticulture)**

On-Campus

Michael Arnold

Off-Campus

Larry Stein (Uvalde)

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Joe Masabni (Dallas)

**Vegetable Production (Horticulture, Plant Breeding)**

On-Campus

Kevin Crosby

M. Isabel Vales

Off-Campus

John Jifon (Weslaco)

Subas Malla (Uvalde)

Daniel Leskovar (Uvalde)

Larry Stein (Uvalde)

Shad D. Nelson (Kingsville)

Joe Masabni (Dallas)

Genhua Niu (Dallas)

Carlos Avila (Weslaco)

**Table 3. continued**

**Viticulture / Enology (Horticulture)**

On-Campus

Justin Scheiner

Andreea Botezatu

Off-Campus

**DEGREES OFFERED THROUGH THE DEPT. OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES<sup>1</sup>**

	<u>MAG</u>	<u>NTO-M.S.</u>	<u>M.S.</u>	<u>Ph.D.</u>
Horticulture	X		X	X
Plant Breeding*			X	X
Molecular & Environmental Plant Sciences (MEPS)**			X	X
Distance Plant Breeding*		X	X	X
Food Science***	X		X	X
Nutrition***			X	X

<sup>1</sup> MAG=Master of Agriculture -Non-Thesis, internship and internship professional paper required  
NTO-M.S. = Master of Science – Non-thesis option, internship and professional paper required  
M.S. = Master of Science - Thesis required  
Ph.D. = Doctor of Philosophy - Dissertation required

\*Plant Breeding and Distance Plant Breeding programs are administered through both the Department of Horticultural Sciences and the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.  
\*MEPS is an interdisciplinary program administered through the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences.  
\*\* Food Science and Nutrition programs are administered through the Departments of Food Science and Nutrition, respectively.

Students obtaining degrees in MEPS, Food Science, and Nutrition will follow the policies outlined by those programs and are not subject to the policies outlined in the Department of Horticultural Sciences Graduate Policy Manual. Students in the Distance Plant Breeding program in the Department of Horticultural Sciences will follow the policies outlined in the Departments Distance Plant Breeding Handbook. Those students in the on-campus Plant Breeding program housed in the Department of Horticultural Sciences follow this graduate policy manual with the exception of the 12 HORT course hour requirement as these students are required to take courses in Plant Breeding and Genetics.

**Degrees obtained under the direction of off-campus faculty, require a co-advisor on campus for the student's benefit while they are on-campus completing coursework.**