College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Entomology and Nematology Department

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GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT – Ph.D. STUDENT POSITION OPENING
MOLECULAR NEMATODE INTERACTIONS

Position Summary:

The newly established multidisciplinary Plant-Nematode-Microbe interactions laboratory at University of Florida is looking for its first ever graduate student.

We are seeking a highly motivated student to work on deciphering molecular bases of plant-nematode-microbe interactions. The student will use molecular biology, biochemistry and computational techniques to decipher the dynamics of nematode interactions with plants, microbes and other nematodes. This Ph.D. position is hosted by the department of Entomology and Nematology at University of Florida, Gainesville.

Expected Start Date: Summer 2026

Minimum Qualifications:

- A research-based master's degree with a strong record of research publication in – Molecular Biology/ Plant Biology and Physiology/ Plant Pathology/ Biochemistry/ Microbiology/ Ecology/ Nematology or any other relevant major.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Ability to lead and be led to work with other team members as required.
- Aptitude to work in both greenhouse and in laboratory settings performing *in vitro* and *in silico* analyses.

Application Process:

Applicants should submit the following materials to Dr. Rajendran via email only (deepakrajendran@ufl.edu):

1) 3-page Curriculum vitae (CV) / Resume with a clear publication record.
2) Unofficial transcripts for all the University degrees earned.
3) 1-page Personal statement outlining candidate's interests and how they fit in the program.

4) 1-page Research statement outlining candidate's research interests relevant to the lab (deepakhaarith.com) – potential projects and research questions to explore.
5) TOEFL or IELTS test scores (for international applicants). GRE scores are not required but preferred.
6) Contact information of at least 3 references.

Deadline:

All applications need to be sent in via **email only** (deepakrajendran@ufl.edu) by 30th of September 2025 4 p.m. Florida time. A short-list of candidates will be invited for an online interview by the 31st of October 2025. For any questions or clarifications, please email Dr. Deepak Rajendran.