

## GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP in APPLIED SOIL PHYSICS

This Graduate Fellowship in Applied Soil Physics at Washington State University is supported by the Environment Division of METER Group, Inc. This fellowship provides support to train an outstanding M.S. student through research, mentorship, rigorous coursework, and experiential learning.

### Research

Measuring soil porosity has critical agricultural, environmental, and engineering applications. For example, soil compaction, i.e. decreased soil porosity, has a profound impact on soil health by reducing agricultural productivity, reducing plant nutrient use efficiency through decreased rooting depths, increases the potential for runoff, and decrease the resilience of the soil during drought events. One M.S. graduate research fellowship is available beginning Fall 2023 Semester in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at Washington State University, Pullman, WA, in the area of soil porosity measurement methodology. Additionally, the student will work at the WSU Pullman, WA, campus Aug.-May and at METER Group, Inc., also located in Pullman, from May-Aug. of both years.

### Essential Duties

- Evaluate potential methods for estimating soil porosity
- Manage, analyze, and interpret sensor datasets
- Complete coursework requirements for the M.S. degree in Soil Science at WSU from Aug.-May of both years
- Work May-Aug. of both years at the METER Group, Inc., headquarters in Pullman, WA
- Work as part of a research group of graduate students looking at similar questions around soil physical properties

### Fellowship Details

Graduate assistantships (research and teaching) are formal half-time, academic-year appointments accompanied by a summer stipend, with annual compensation of \$23,500 (M.S.). Graduate assistants also receive tuition waivers, as well as comprehensive health (medical/dental) insurance, and are eligible for additional support through scholarships, fellowships and travel grant awards. Qualifying recruits may be nominated by the program director for the prestigious ARCS fellowship ([seattlearcsfoundation.org](http://seattlearcsfoundation.org)), which provides \$17,500 in addition to the research assistantship.

### Eligibility Criteria

Qualifications are a bachelor's degree in soil science, hydrology, environmental science, agricultural and biological engineering, or a closely related field. Applicants should possess strong written and verbal communication skills and a desire for field-based research and data analysis. Applicants also need to meet requirements for admission to the WSU M.S. degree program in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at WSU.

### Application Process

Students interested in this program should contact Dr. Haly Neely ([h.neely@wsu.edu](mailto:h.neely@wsu.edu); 509.335.0947) before beginning the application process. The application is available at: <http://css.wsu.edu>

