

Research Assistantship in Wood Science and Technology/Chemistry-Biochemistry

Research relates to biotechnological processing and wood products protection. Applicants should have an interest in chemistry or biochemistry. The research focus is the fungal biodegradation of wood and the mechanisms that fungi employ to break down wood and woody biomass. Although the research is basic in nature it has practical implications in that it may lead to the development of better methods to protect wood products from decay (a multi billion dollar problem in the US alone), and also may lead to new methods for the bioprocessing of woody materials to produce biofuels or for improved methods for biopulping in the pulp and paper field. At the basic level the work may be oriented to improve our basic understanding of cycling of carbon and nutrients in the environment as the wood decay fungi are the primary carbon cyclers in coniferous forests.

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