

## Graduate Position Openings

**Dr. Tiffany Messer** is seeking three **Ph.D./M.S.** students to investigate fate and transport of emerging contaminants (i.e. PFAS, microplastics, pesticides, antibiotics) in agroecosystems and the use of wetlands for treatment at the **University of Kentucky** starting in the **Spring/Summer/Fall 2025**. Our research team focuses on identifying, tracing, and treating contaminants of emerging concern and nutrients in human impacted ecosystems. More information about the Messer Lab can be found at <https://www.mesoprogram.com>.

Student support will be provided through funding from the USGS and NSF. Ability and interest to work in both field and laboratory settings is vital. Graduate school applicants will need a background in one or more of the following areas: agricultural/biological/civil engineering, chemical engineering, biogeochemistry, natural resources, and/or environmental engineering. Candidates with general programming skills (e.g., Matlab, R Studio, SAS), experience working in chemistry laboratories, strong technical writing records, and enthusiasm for research are encouraged to apply.

Ability and interest to work in both field and laboratory settings is vital. Graduate school applicants will need a degree in engineering from an ABET accredited institution and background in one or more of the following areas: agricultural/biological/civil engineering, chemical engineering, biogeochemistry, natural resources, and/or environmental engineering. Candidates with general programming skills (e.g., Matlab, R Studio, SAS), strong technical writing records, and enthusiasm for research are encouraged to apply.

Dr. Messer and her team are committed to an **inclusive** environment and encourage students from underrepresented groups to apply. Further, the University of Kentucky has numerous resources to create a welcoming environment for all people (e.g., [Office of Access, Community, and Engagement](#), [UK Counseling Center](#), [Behavioral Health at University Health Services](#)). The city of Lexington has several exciting and unique social settings including an expansive [microbrew](#) and [food scene](#), miles of [bike trails](#), [Keenland Horse Track](#), [Red River Gorge](#), and the [Kentucky Bourbon Trail](#).

Students will join the [Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department](#). Information on the graduate programs and admission can be found at: <https://bae.ca.uky.edu/academics/graduate>.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Tiffany Messer directly at [tiffany.messer@uky.edu](mailto:tiffany.messer@uky.edu) with their resume or CV and research interests.

