



Groen Lab, Department of Nematology, Genomics Building Rm 2202A, Riverside, CA 92521

September 10, 2021

## Junior Specialist Position in Nematology

Full/part time schedule	Full time
Salary commensurate with experience	\$38,043 - \$44,057

### Position Information

The Groen Lab in the Department of Nematology, located in the Genomics Building at UC Riverside's main campus (<https://nematology.ucr.edu/faculty>), invites applications for a full-time laboratory technician position starting October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 or later. Under the supervision of the PI (Dr Simon C. "Niels" Groen), the successful candidate will make essential contributions to ongoing research projects in lab and greenhouse that aim to understand the role of plant chemicals in mediating plant interactions with parasitic nematodes, including *Meloidogyne* root-knot nematodes. Plant-parasitic nematodes cause over 150 billion USD in damage per year globally and curbing their attacks will alleviate food insecurity.

The successful candidate will be assisting with general lab operations and maintenance, as well as caring for plants in the laboratory and greenhouse. The lab technician will also collect soil samples, use nematology procedures to extract these plant parasites from plant material and soil, and use molecular biology techniques to identify and measure traits of the nematodes and their host plants. This is a position for a highly motivated person with training in Plant Sciences, Plant Pathology, Nematology or related field of study. For candidates who wish to pursue independent research careers in the more distant future there will also be opportunities to develop independent research projects and author publications in addition to providing support for other lab members.

## **Main Duties**

- Cultivating plants in laboratory and greenhouse settings;
- Isolating and manipulating plant-parasitic nematodes from soil and root samples;
- Maintaining plant and nematode collections;
- Preparing standard lab solutions and plates, sterilizing labware;
- Maintaining the organization of lab workspaces;
- Managing the purchase, reception, storage, and maintenance of laboratory consumables and equipment.
- Performing laboratory and greenhouse experiments and occasionally assisting with field experiments in/around Riverside;
- Performing DNA and RNA extractions, standard and quantitative polymerase chain reactions (PCR).

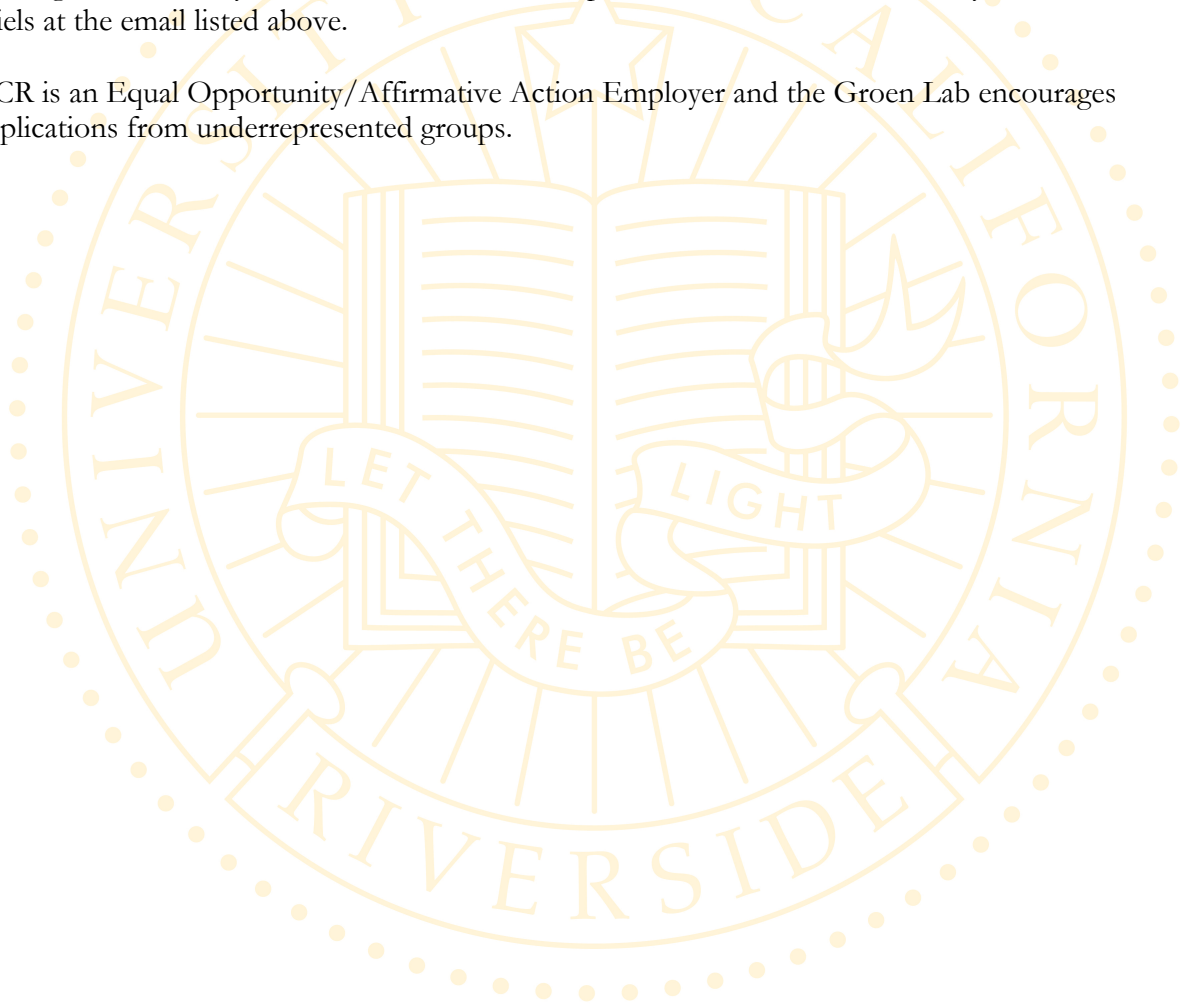
## **Required Skills and Qualifications**

- Bachelor's and optional Master's degree in life sciences with emphasis on botany/plant sciences, plant pathology, nematology, chemical ecology, or related disciplines;
- Interest in botany/plant sciences, nematology, evolution, and agriculture;
- Prior laboratory experience with standard molecular biology methods including DNA and RNA extraction, standard PCR, quantitative PCR (qPCR), and recombinant DNA techniques;
- Proficiency in preparing complex solutions including calculating concentrations;
- Excellent organizational skills and a strong attention to detail, with the ability to multitask and adapt to changing priorities;
- Ability to document experiments, follow instructions, and maintain a safe working environment;
- Proficiency with Word processing and spreadsheet software (Microsoft and Google);
- Highly motivated, able to work independently;
- Excellent communication skills and ability to actively participate in a mutually-supportive and respectful team environment;
- Knowledge of and experience with culturing plant-parasitic nematodes is preferred but certainly not required.

## Instructions

To apply, please send a single-page cover letter about yourself explaining why you are interested in this position, your resume and academic transcript, and names and contact information for three references to: Simon C. “Niels” Groen (simon [dot] groen [at] ucr [dot] edu). Please use “Junior Specialist in Nematology” as the subject line of the email. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled. Questions may be directed to Niels at the email listed above.

UCR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer and the Groen Lab encourages applications from underrepresented groups.



## **Additional Information**

In the Heart of Inland Southern California, UC Riverside is located on nearly 1,200 acres near Box Springs Mountain in Southern California; the park-like campus provides convenient access to the vibrant and growing Inland region. The campus is a living laboratory for the exploration of issues critical to growing communities' air, water, energy, transportation, politics, the arts, history, and culture. UCR gives every student, faculty and staff member the resources to explore, engage, imagine and excel.

UC Riverside is recognized as one of the most ethnically diverse research universities in the country boasting several key rankings of which we are extremely proud.

UC Riverside is proud to be ranked No. 12 among all U.S. universities, according to Money Magazine's 2020 rankings, and among the top 1 percent of universities worldwide, according to the 2019-20 Center for World University rankings.

UC Riverside is the top university in the United States for social mobility. - U.S. News 2020

UCR is a member of the University Innovation Alliance, the leading national coalition of public research universities committed to improving student success for low-income, first-generation, and students of color.

Among top-tier universities, UC Riverside ranks No. 2 in financial aid. - Business Insider 2019

Ranked No. 2 in the world for research, UCR's Department of Entomology maintains one of the largest collections of insect specimens the nation. - Center for World University Rankings

UCR's distinguished faculty boasts 2 Nobel Laureates, and 13 members of the National Academies of Science and Medicine.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer with a strong institutional commitment to the achievement of excellence and diversity among its faculty and staff. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

For information about our generous employee benefits package, visit: Employee Benefits Overview (<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/compensation-and-benefits>).