



The University of Vermont
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

November, 2021

Ph.D. Training Opportunity in Epidemiology and Complex Systems

The Animal Biosciences Program and the Social Ecological Gaming and Simulation (SEGS) Lab at the University of Vermont seek a qualified Ph.D. student to lead the development of an agent-based model to represent biosecurity behaviors and disease spread on a national scale. This position is funded by a grant through the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The project, “Predicting livestock disease transmission dynamics under alternate biosecurity risk management interventions and behavioral responses of livestock producers,” is led by Asim Zia, Professor of Public Policy and Computer Science. This position is supervised by co-PI Julie Smith, Research Associate Professor in Animal and Veterinary Sciences. The student will work with the transdisciplinary research team to integrate behavioral information with an existing animal disease spread model. For more information about the department and lab, please visit the [Animal Biosciences](#) and [SEGS](#) websites.

Qualifications: Students with strong quantitative backgrounds and interests in veterinary epidemiology or public health are particularly encouraged to apply. Previous experience with the InterSpread model would be an asset, but is not required. The successful candidate should be proficient in at least one programming language (C++, Java, and/or Python being most desirable).

Start Date: August 2022. The Animal Biosciences program has rolling admissions and will review applications until a qualified candidate is found. Applications from international students must be completed well before July 1, the deadline to allow preparation of required immigration forms and obtain a student visa.

Location: The University of Vermont (or UVM) is located in Burlington, Vermont, on the shores of Lake Champlain, nestled between the Adirondack and Green Mountains. UVM is a comprehensive public university with a combined enrollment of 13,000 undergraduate, graduate, and medical students. UVM has received kudos as a “Top Public University” according to U.S. News and World Report, a Princeton Review “Top University and Top 50 Green University,” and one of the Northeast’s “Best Colleges for LGBTQ Students.” Burlington also has been rated Outside’s “Best Town Ever.”

Funding: This position is fully funded for three years through a research assistantship. Funding includes tuition coverage, a 12-month annual stipend, and health insurance benefits.

Program: The student will matriculate through the Animal Biosciences Program. For more information about the host department and application process, visit the [Animal and Veterinary Sciences](#) webpage.

In addition to the Graduate College application, interested candidates also should send an email to Julie Smith (julie.m.smith@uvm.edu) containing the following documents as a single PDF: (1) a statement of interest, (2) a CV, (3) contact information (name, address, phone number, and e-mail address) for three references, and (4) unofficial copies of academic transcripts and TOEFL scores, if applicable. Please indicate in the subject line “EEID-Biosecurity.” Informal inquiries are also welcome.

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any category legally protected by federal or state law.

The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College is committed to a policy of equal employment opportunity and to a program of affirmative action in order to fulfill that policy. For more information on this policy, please refer to the [Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy Statement](#) web page.