

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

A PhD graduate research assistantship (GRA) is open in [Dr. Byron Chaves](#)' group at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The position will be advised by a multi-disciplinary team (Dr. Bing Wang – food safety risk analysis; Dr. Mary-Grace Danao – food engineering and processing; and Dr. Gary Sullivan – meat science and processing) working on evaluating, validating, and modeling the effectiveness of novel chemical antimicrobial interventions and high-pressure processing in meat and poultry matrices.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

Highly motivated candidates should have an MS degree in food/animal/poultry science or closely related field with a concentration in pathogenic microbiology. Working knowledge of MS Office is essential as well as a strong background and interest in Applied Statistics. Effective human relations skills are required to work with various multi-cultural stakeholder and professional groups. Ability to effectively communicate verbally and in written form with a variety of technical and non-technical audiences is required. Successful candidates must possess a valid Nebraska driver's license within one month of the position start date and be able to keep it throughout the life of the project. Please note that occasional visits to meat and poultry processing operations is expected, including animal harvest establishments.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct research in BSL-2 laboratory with a focus on microbial challenge studies using bacterial and/or viral human pathogens.
- Participate in the design and execution of applied research on foodborne pathogen responses to chemical antimicrobial interventions and high-pressure processing in various meat and poultry matrices.
- Review scientific and applied literature to identify appropriate materials, statistical techniques, or methods applicable to the area of research.
- Train undergraduate and other graduate students on microbiological methods.
- Develop scholarly activity at scientific conferences and publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- Maintain laboratory, record-keeping, and laboratory equipment.

CHAVES LAB @ UNL:

The Chaves Food Safety Microbiology Lab is located in the Food Innovation Center on the Nebraska Innovation Campus, 2 miles north of downtown Lincoln, NE. The group currently consists of one postdoc, one PhD student, and five master's students. To learn more about us, please visit <https://chaveslab.wixsite.com/foodsafety>.

FDST AND UNL:

The [Department of Food Science and Technology](#) has a long-standing tradition of excellence in research, teaching, and outreach. Composed of 35 full-time faculty, the Department has outstanding opportunities for learning and networking as well as state of the art facilities. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, founded in 1869, is the state flagship land-grant university and an R1 institution – very high research activity.

APPLICATION AND INQUIRIES:

The official graduate studies application portal is located [here](#). Review of applications will happen the week of August 8. The top three candidates will be invited to a virtual interview with the selection committee, and an offer is expected to be made by August 31. Please reach out directly to Dr. Byron Chaves (byron.chaves-elizondo@unl.edu) to discuss the position, UNL/Lincoln, and your background.

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment.