



**Ecosphere Studies Postbaccalaureate Researcher
Salina, KS
1 Year Research Stipend**

Position Summary

The Land Institute is looking for a creative, collaborative Ecosphere Studies Postbaccalaureate Researcher to support our development of new educational materials on perennial grain agriculture. The postbaccalaureate researcher (“post-bac”) will help design accessible educational modules, collaborate with researchers and educators, and organize module testing and revision. The ideal candidate will bring a passion for learning about perennial grains and awareness of how digital technology has reshaped education.

This 12-month post-bac position will be funded by the support of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative’s (AFRI) Sustainable Agricultural Systems Coordinated Agricultural Program (SAS-CAP) grant no. 2020-68012-31934 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), also known as the [Kernza® CAP](#) grant. The position will be based in Salina, Kansas and will be mentored and supervised by The Land Institute’s Director of [Ecosphere Studies](#).

The post-bac will join the Education, Extension, and Policy objective team of the Kernza® CAP grant. This team’s work includes the integration of perennial grain agriculture and Kernza® production into multiple educational, outreach, and support settings. The group is charged with curating the most up-to-date science and implementation approaches into accessible informational and engagement tools for students, growers, educators, technical assistance providers, and policymakers.

Postbaccalaureate researchers at The Land Institute receive mentorship, research experience, and an opportunity to develop collaborative skills. The goal is to assist recent college graduates in exploration of future career, education, or training possibilities.

Position Responsibilities

Help design accessible educational modules

- Support project lead in designing and disseminating accessible educational materials for a wide variety of learners, drawing on an educational framework already developed in the first year of the project.
- Research and draft content, including educational activities, lessons, and assessments.
- Research and design innovative digital learning methods and resources to optimize classroom learning and support hands-on learning in other settings, such as perennial grain research & demonstration plots.

Collaborate with researchers and educators

- Coordinate ongoing collaborations with perennial grain scientific researchers as well as educators, policymakers, and other professionals to ensure educational materials designed in this project are accurate and engaging.
- Help steward and grow the network of people interested in teaching & learning about diverse, perennial grain agriculture.
- Manage project emails along with internal team workflow and communications through online project management software (e.g. Basecamp).

Organize module testing and revision

- Establish and adhere to feasible timeframes to achieve project goals and objectives.
- Coordinate beta-testing process to evaluate modules and collect feedback from audiences such as collaborators, teachers, and students, with a particular focus on improving accessibility for a wide variety of learners.
- Support project lead in revising and improving modules.

Additional Opportunities

- Participate in and assist with events, such as Kernza® CAP gatherings and TLI's Prairie Festival.
- Participate in educational opportunities such as research seminars and field trips.
- Participate in fieldwork with other staff, post-bacs, and interns and gain experience working with multiple perennial grain crops.
- Participate in staff professional development opportunities.
- Engage with visitors by leading tours and participating in community presentations.
- Engage with civic science participants and farmers.
- Attend relevant professional conferences.

Location

This position will be based at The Land Institute's main campus in Salina, Kansas.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's level degree
- Excellent communication, organization, and collaboration skills
- Ability and enthusiasm to effectively engage a wide range of people and communities
- Ability and enthusiasm to work on an emerging research agenda in a dynamic learning environment
- Intellectual curiosity and commitment to lifelong learning
- US citizen, legal resident, or have a current work visa

Preferred Qualifications

- Knowledge and experience in agriculture and working with plants
- Experience with digital learning tools and approaches
- Experience working in educational settings, such as teaching experience in formal or informal learning environments
- Experience with educational and social science research methods

About the Organization

The Land Institute co-leads the global movement for perennial, diverse, truly regenerative agriculture at a scale that matches the enormity of the intertwined climate, water, and food security crises. The Land Institute's work, led by a team of plant breeders and ecologists in multiple partnerships worldwide, is focused on developing perennial grains, pulses and oilseed bearing plants to be grown in ecologically intensified, diverse crop mixtures known as perennial polycultures. The Land Institute's goal is to create an agriculture system that mimics natural systems in order to produce ample food and reduce or eliminate the negative impacts of agriculture. Through transdisciplinary research and collaborations, The Land Institute builds learning communities to help society cross the threshold into diverse, perennial grain agricultures.

For more information, please visit www.landinstitute.org.

Stipend

The research stipend for this role will be \$2,400 monthly.

To Apply

To be considered for this position, interested applicants should submit a resume or CV, cover letter, and contact information for three references to careers@landinstitute.org. Review of applications will begin August 16, 2021. Position will remain open until filled.

The Land Institute is an equal opportunity employer and actively encourages applications from women and people of all ethnic and national origins and sexual orientations.