



Odum School of Ecology
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

PhD position in environmental contamination and remediation research

The [Odum School of Ecology](#) and the [Krichels Biogeochemistry lab](#) are seeking students in the areas of environmental contamination and remediation research. The PhD projects involve collaborations between the Odum School of Ecology (OSE), the [Savannah River Ecology Laboratory](#) (SREL), and the [Savannah River National Laboratory](#) (SRNL).

Within project topic areas there is broad opportunity for students to co-develop research in alignment with their interests. Key topic areas associated with this opportunity are:

1. Above ground biomarkers of below-ground contaminant distributions and flows.
2. Advancing environmental remediation through advances in data science and artificial intelligence.

Students will be primarily located in Athens, GA for the first 1-2 years of their PhD program. Athens is home to the main UGA campus and students will be fully integrated into the Odum School of Ecology.

Students will also likely spend 1-2 years of their PhD working at the Savannah River Site, living either in Augusta, GA or Aiken, SC (~2 hours from Athens). The Savannah River Site is a large federal research site in South Carolina, home to SRNL and SREL.

Alex Krichels (Alexander.Krichels@uga.edu) will serve as primary academic advisor for a PhD student interested in a project focused on terrestrial ecosystem ecology. Applicants interested in a more aquatic ecology focused project should contact Jemma Fadum (jfadum@uga.edu). Interested applicants may also consider communication with Gene Rhodes (rhodes@srel.uga.edu) and Thomas Danielson (thomas.danielson@srnl.gov). Significant potential exists for ongoing work placement beyond the PhD, depending on student performance.

Desired Qualifications

Ideal PhD applicants will have strong interests in ecosystem ecology, environmental science, biogeochemistry, data science, and translating cutting-edge fundamental research into applied environmental solutions.

Applicant should have demonstrable quantitative skills (previous job experience and/or Master's degree preferred).

Due to visa sponsorship limitations and DOE security clearance requirements, US citizenship is required.

Application

Interested individuals should contact Alex Krichels (alexander.krichels@uga.edu) by **November 1st, 2026** with **1)** a cover letter summarizing your interest in the position, **2)** two professional references (contact information only- email preferred), **3)** your resume or CV, and **4)** a writing sample. Please include "SREL/SRNL PhD position" in the subject line of your email.

Competitive applicants will then be asked to submit admission applications to OSE by December 1st (*Note: Please do not apply to OSE without invitation. Your application will not be considered*). Applicants will then be invited to an on-campus recruitment event in Athens, GA during late January 2027. Successful applicants are expected to matriculate in Fall 2027 (early August). Deferment not available.