Research Intern – Microbial Inoculant Development

Location: Fargo, ND
Employment Type: Part or Full-time (Flexible; Summer or Semester-Based)
Experience Level: Intern – College Student

About Lilac Ag

Lilac Ag is an early-stage biologicals company developing next-generation microbial inoculants for agriculture. Based in Fargo, ND and spun out from research at North Dakota State University, we combine microbial ecology, genomics, and biotechnology to enhance microbial efficacy and ensure competitiveness in the soil environment, addressing one of the biggest barriers to reliable on-farm performance. We are based on campus at NDSU in the Thomas Glass Biotech Innovation Center (Van Es Hall).

Position Overview

We are seeking a motivated and detail-oriented **Research Intern** to support our microbial discovery and development pipeline. Working under the guidance of our **Lead Microbiologist**, the intern will assist with laboratory and growth chamber experiments, microbial culturing, and data collection. This is an excellent opportunity to gain hands-on experience in agricultural microbiology and contribute to a fast-paced, mission-driven startup environment.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist in microbial culturing, media preparation, and strain maintenance
- Support high-throughput screening assays and inoculant efficacy testing
- Help collect, organize, and analyze experimental data
- Contribute to growth chamber experiments evaluating plant-microbe interactions
- Maintain accurate lab notebooks and follow standard operating procedures
- Participate in regular team meetings and contribute to research discussions

Preferred Qualifications

- Current undergraduate (junior/senior) or graduate student in Microbiology, Plant Sciences, Biotechnology, or a related field
- Prior lab experience in microbiology or molecular biology is a plus
- Interest in plant-microbe interactions, soil health, or agricultural biotechnology
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and as part of a small team
- Willingness to work in both lab and growth chamber environments

What We Offer

- Mentorship from a leading scientist in agricultural microbiology
- Hands-on training in applied microbiology and plant-microbe research
- Flexible hours to accommodate academic schedules
- Opportunity to contribute to real-world product development
- Collaborative, innovation-driven work culture

To Apply:

Please send a brief cover letter and resume to **Careers@Lilac.ag** with the subject line: **Microbiology Intern – [Your Name]**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.