

# NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Department of Animal Sciences  
North Dakota State University  
Fargo, ND, USA**

## **MS position available in swine health, physiology, and behavior.**

**Description:** A 2-year MS assistantship is available at North Dakota State University under the supervision of Dr. Chris Byrd (Department of Animal Sciences). Candidates with an interest in swine production, health, physiology, behavior, and welfare are encouraged to apply. The preferred start date for this assistantship is Fall 2026.

**About the project:** This project will evaluate the effects of microplastic exposure on swine health and physiology. The experiments will require the selected student to obtain skills related to animal science and production, swine health, applied ethology, as well as some nutritional and reproductive physiology. This project is one portion of a larger multi-disciplinary project that will require the selected candidate to collaborate extensively both within and outside of the department.

### **Required Qualifications:**

- Candidates should possess evidence of a strong interest in swine production, health, physiology, behavior, and/or animal welfare science.
- BS degree (GPA  $\geq$  3.3 on a 4.0 scale) in animal science, biology, zoology, or a related field.
- Strong written, oral, and organizational skills.
- The ability to work independently and in dynamic multi-disciplinary groups.
- Possession of a U.S. driver's license, or the ability to obtain a driver's license shortly after beginning assistantship.

A strong candidate for this position will possess a competitive undergraduate GPA (minimum 3.3 on a 4.0 scale), experience working with swine in a production setting, a clear interest and experience in the topics listed above, and strong independent learning and organizational skills.

**To Apply:** Interested candidates should send a cover letter explaining their interests and relevant qualifications, an updated curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, and unofficial university undergraduate transcripts to Dr. Byrd ([christopher.byrd@ndsu.edu](mailto:christopher.byrd@ndsu.edu)). Screening of applicant materials will begin on July 8<sup>th</sup>. However, applications will be accepted until the position is filled. After a candidate has been selected, the successful applicant will be invited to formally apply for official acceptance into the graduate school at North Dakota State University (required). Please do not apply for official graduate school acceptance unless selected for the position by Dr. Byrd.

**For more information about this exciting opportunity, please contact:**  
Christopher Byrd, PhD ([christopher.byrd@ndsu.edu](mailto:christopher.byrd@ndsu.edu))