



Postdoc position in plant molecular evolution

The Choi lab (<https://jychoilab.github.io/>) at the University of Kansas is seeking for a postdoctoral scholar to join an interdisciplinary project that combines plant genetics, chromosome biology, and evolution. This is a NIH funded position to understand the genetics and function of telomere variation in plants, and the evolutionary forces that shapes plant telomeres.

The primary question of our lab asks why the telomeres of plants are so variable between and within species. To answer this question our lab has developed *Mimulus* (common name monkeyflower) as a model for studying the evolutionary genetics of plant telomeres. The postdoc will use *M. guttatus* to understand the genetic basis of telomeric variation and the evolutionary forces that shapes the telomere. The project will combine quantitative genetics with CRISPR and functional genomics including single cell approaches and population genomics. Our ultimate goal is to establish the genetic mechanism and evolution underlying telomeric variation.

Basic Qualifications:

- Applicant should have a Ph.D. in the following or related fields: genetics, molecular biology, or evolution.
- Demonstrated experience in plant biology, especially plant genetics or plant molecular biology is required.
- A strong interest in evolutionary biology is necessary.

Preferred (but not necessary) Qualifications:

- Experience with high-throughput sequencing and genomic data analysis is desired but not necessary. This can be taught to the candidate.

The lab is looking for someone who is personable and enthusiastic about working in a collaborative environment. Responsibilities will include contributing to ongoing research in the lab, developing independent research projects, and mentoring graduate/undergraduate students. This is a 1 year appointment with possibility of an extension. The preferred start date is summer 2026 but it is also negotiable.

Application instructions:

Applicants can email PI Jae Young Choi (jaeyoung.choi@ku.edu) that includes

- (1) a curriculum vitae
- (2) a cover letter - letter of application that summarizes your qualifications and interest in the position
- (3) contact information for three references

Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted and the position will remain open until filled.

Questions regarding the search and position may be sent to Dr. Jae Young Choi (jaeyoung.choi@ku.edu).