

MS or PhD Student Research Assistant in Animal Sciences

Department of Animal Sciences, College of Agricultural Sciences

Colorado State University - Fort Collins, CO, USA

Supervisor: Dr. Caiti Peters

Anticipated start date: Fall 2026 (Application due Feb 1, 2026)

The successful candidate will serve as study coordinator for a **pilot study of equine-assisted learning for young adults with Down Syndrome**. Additionally, the student will have opportunities to contribute to other equine-assisted services research at Temple Grandin Equine Center, more information available: <https://labs.agsci.colostate.edu/peters/>

What We Offer:

- Full tuition coverage and research assistant stipend for 3 years
- Customizable academic program focused on human-equine interaction
- Opportunities to contribute to ongoing research projects and interdisciplinary collaborations
- Mentorship in intervention science, clinical trials management, outcome measurement, and mixed-methods research
- Training within a land-grant Animal Sciences program at a Carnegie R1 institution

Required Qualifications for MS Position:

- Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences or related field with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English

Required Qualifications for PhD Position:

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in Animal Sciences or related field with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Academic record with evidence of research potential (e.g., thesis, publications, presentations)
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience providing equine-assisted services (adaptive/therapeutic riding, equine-assisted learning, occupational therapy integrating horses, etc.)
- Experience working with individuals with Down Syndrome or other developmental disabilities
- Experience with project management, especially clinical trials management
- Experience with quantitative and/or qualitative research methods including data analysis

More Information

- Temple Grandin Equine Center Research: <https://labs.agsci.colostate.edu/peters/>
- Application Materials: <https://gradadmissions.colostate.edu/apply/>
- If interested contact Caiti Peters at caiti.peters@colostate.edu