

Lydia Grace Griffin

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- The University of Padova**, *Doctoral Student*, Padova, Italy 2024–Present
- **Research focus:** Abiotic stress resilience for traditional & underutilized vegetables of Italian territories: cultivation strategies & genetic characterization
- The University of Georgia & The University of Padova**, *Dual Master's Student*, Athens, Georgia & Padova, Italy 2022–2024
- **GPA:** 3.78/4.00; 28.7/30.00
 - **Thesis:** *New insights into the phylogenesis and drought tolerance of Cichorium intybus L.*
- The University of Georgia**, *Bachelor Student*, Athens, GA 2018–2022
- **Major:** Agricultural Communications
 - **Minor & Certificates:** Horticulture, Organic Agriculture, International Agriculture
 - **GPA:** 3.96/4.00

WORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- University of Hohenheim Exchange Semester**, *Master's Level Research*, Hohenheim, Germany 2022–2023
- Conducted research for the Sino-German "AMAIZE-P" project, applying statistical, laboratory, & field analysis in pot trials to investigate phosphorus availability & corn uptake.
 - Contributed to multiple scientific publications based on project results.
 - Strengthened cross-cultural communication skills by translating & presenting findings to diverse audiences.
- UGA AESC Department**, *Collaborator*, Athens, Georgia 2021–2022
- Assisted in developing curriculum for a university course exploring world hunger through an interdisciplinary lens, analyzing environmental, political, & cultural causes, socioeconomic impacts, & potential solutions.
- UGA Honeybee Lab**, *Student Assistant*, Athens, GA 2021–2022
- Conducted laboratory & fieldwork tasks, including pollinator collection, plant & insect species identification, & honeybee colony treatments & transfers, in support of research objectives.
 - Communicated regularly with extension agents and local beekeepers to assess honeybee roles in agricultural production systems.
 - Fostered strong collaborative relationships with team members through strategic problem-solving & conflict management.
- UGA Undergraduate Research**, *Student Assistant*, Athens, GA 2020–2021
- Conducted fieldwork including water infiltration testing, tissue & soil sampling, & fertilizer application trials as part of a three-year cover crop/row crop study.
 - Analyzed field trial data using Excel & RStudio to support statistical & agronomic evaluations.
 - Assisted in the preparation & writing of a scientific article summarizing the findings from the multi-year study.
 - Researched, wrote, & organized a plant nutrition fact sheet series to help growers improve yield & understand soil health.
- Athens Land Trust**, *Agricultural Communicator*, Athens, GA 2020–2021
- Conducted interviews with Georgia Farm Link farmland seekers to assess barriers to farmland access & use findings to inform communication strategies.
 - Developed farmer-focused newsletters using Canva, Adobe, and MailChimp, integrating resources, workshops, and USDA program opportunities.
 - Improved outreach profiles for conservation and community agriculture programs, updating information, data, and visuals.
 - Highlighted minority farmers' stories to increase farm visibility & representation in the agricultural sector.
- Various Farm Locations**, (*Farmer & Agricultural Communicator*)
- Williams Farm, Athens, GA 2020–2021
- Hickory Hill Farm, Carlton, GA 2020
- Rogers Greens & Roots Organic Farm, Douglassville, GA 2020
- Plant, harvest, and maintain crops; operate tractors and farm equipment; assist with greenhouse construction.
 - Conduct interviews with farm owners to assess production strategies, soil management practices, and crop health.
 - Manage weekly direct-to-consumer sales at the farmer's market booth, boosting customer engagement and product visibility.
 - Photograph and edit content with Adobe software, showcasing farm operations to support brand awareness and outreach.
 - Link novel farmers from marginalized communities to USDA incubation program & assist them in fieldwork tasks.
 - Created a GIS map of a production farm to support spatial analysis of field layout, soil zones, and irrigation planning
- Ramsey Student Center; Total Training Center; Independent Gyms**, *Personal Trainer* 2019–Present
- Train individual clients & small groups, adapting programs to fitness goals, motivation, & confidence levels.
 - Provide guidance on balanced nutrition and its link to physical performance, emphasizing local and sustainable food choices.
 - Build lasting client relationships through flexible, trust-based coaching across multiple training settings.
- Little Hawaiian Restaurant; ChangeWithinMeals**, *Program & Chef Assistant* 2017–2019
- Helped launch "ChangeWithinMeals," a meal prep service promoting healthy lifestyles through nutritious, balanced meals.
 - Contributed to sourcing locally grown food & integrating aeroponic vertical gardens into meal production.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- [In Review] Barcaccia, G., Scariolo, F., Draga, S., Riommi, D., Tondello, A., Palumbo, F., Vannozzi, A., Griffin, L., *A pioneering genotypic and phylogenetic characterization of Cichorium crops through a genome-scale sequencing for future breeding innovations. BMC Plant Biology.*
- Herrman, M., Griffin, L., John, R., Mosquera-Rodríguez, S., Nkebiwe, P., Chen, X., Yang, H., Müller, T., *Limitations of soil-applied non-microbial and microbial biostimulants in enhancing soil P turnover and recycled P fertilizer utilization – a study with and without plants. Frontiers in Plant Science.*

Popular & Technical Publications

- Nicoletto, C., Sambo, P., Griffin, L. “Stress idrico su radicchio: conoscerlo per contrastarlo” (“Water stress in radicchio: understanding it to counter it”). *L'Informatore Agrario.*
- Griffin, L. “Understanding Soil Health, Understanding Life. Producer’s Voice” – Agricultural communications creative writing and educational article (website now offline).

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE & LANGUAGES

Country & Year(s)	Experience	Language Level
Italy; 2023-Present	Ongoing residence & academic research	Italian – B1
Germany; 2022-2023	Semester abroad	German – A2
Greece; 2021	3-month exchange at American College of Greece; completed writing and environmental courses	Greek – Basic (introductory)

Levels follow the CEFR framework: A1/A2 = Basic · B1/B2 = Intermediate · C1/C2 = Advanced

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- Terence J. Centner International Scholarship – \$1,000 2022
- Baden-Württemberg Scholarship – \$4,500 2021–2022
- Ratcliffe Scholarship – \$5,000 2021–2022
- Experiential Learning Scholarship – \$2,500 2021–2022
- OGE General Scholarship – \$2,000 2021–2022
- International Agriculture Certificate Scholarship – \$750 2021–2022
- Griffin-Evans Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000 2021–2022
- ASA, CSSA, SSSA Photo Contest Winner – \$50 2021–2022
- Undergraduate Research Initiative Scholarship – \$500 2020
- 1st Place – CAES Virtual Research Symposium – \$600 2020
- Junior of the Year – Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication 2020
- Presidential Scholar (4.0 GPA semesters: Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)
- Regional Soil Judging Competition – 5th Place Team 2021

MEMBERSHIPS & SOCIETIES

Current

- American Society of Agronomy (ASA)
- Soil Science Society of America (SSSA)
- Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)
- American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS)
- Società di Ortoflorofruitticoltura Italiana (SOI)

Previous Involvement

- UGA Soil Judging Team 2021
- National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Vice President – Athens Chapter 2019–2022
- Women in Agriculture – Member 2021–2022
- UGA Organic Gardening Club – Member 2019–2022
- Food2Kids – Member 2021–2022
- American College of Greece Recycling Initiative – Participant Summer 2021

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Botto and Friends Animal Shelter Assistance 2025
- Garden Coordinator – Alps Road Elementary School Garden Project, Athens, GA 2021
- “Breaking the Cycle” On-Farm Photography & Agricultural Education Event, Athens, GA 2021
- Boroume Farmers Market to Food Pantry, Athens, Greece 2021
- Local Wedding Florist, Athens, GA 2021
- Mobile Food Pantry, Athens, GA 2020
- Food Bank, Athens, GA 2020
- The Sparrow’s Nest, Athens, GA 2020–2021

