

**Opportunity Title:** USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Emerging Foreign

Fungal Pathogens

**Opportunity Reference Code:** USDA-ARS-NE-2023-0312

**Organization** U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

**Reference Code** USDA-ARS-NE-2023-0312

**How to Apply** *Connect with ORISE...on the GO!* Download the new ORISE GO mobile app in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) to help you stay engaged, connected, and informed during your ORISE experience and beyond!

A complete application consists of:

- An application
- Transcript(s) – For this opportunity, an unofficial transcript or copy of the student academic records printed by the applicant or by academic advisors from internal institution systems may be submitted. Click [here](#) for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Two educational or professional recommendations

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

**Application Deadline** 11/3/2023 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

**Description** \*Applications may be reviewed on a rolling-basis.

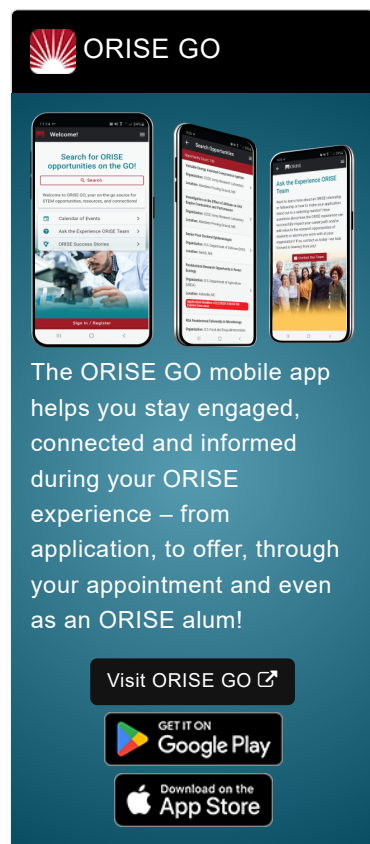
**ARS Office/Lab and Location:** A postdoctoral research opportunity is available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit (FDWSRU), located in Frederick, Maryland.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific in-house research agency with a mission to find solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table. ARS will deliver cutting-edge, scientific tools and innovative solutions for American farmers, producers, industry, and communities to support the nourishment and well-being of all people; sustain our nation's agroecosystems and natural resources; and ensure the economic competitiveness and excellence of our agriculture. The vision of the agency is to provide global leadership in agricultural discoveries through scientific excellence.

**Research Project:** This fellowship is part of a project using integrative genomic and biological approaches to detect and manage emerging foreign fungal plant pathogens. The fellow will participate in the discovery of resistance genes, pathogen host range, and/or mechanisms of pathogenicity.

**Learning Objectives:** Under the guidance of a mentor, learning opportunities include:

- Plant cultivation
- Procedures for BSL-3 plant pathogen containment research
- Resistance gene discovery
- Biolistic plant transformation
- Gene silencing



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- Gene expression analysis
- Drafting manuscripts reporting experimental results

**Mentor:** The mentor for this opportunity is Kerry Pedley ([kerry.pedley@usda.gov](mailto:kerry.pedley@usda.gov)). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s).

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date:** August 2023. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

**Appointment Length:** The appointment will initially be for two years but may be extended upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

**Level of Participation:** The appointment is full-time.

**Participant Stipend:** The participant(s) will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The current annual stipend for this opportunity is \$65,000 - \$80,000.**

**Citizenship Requirements:** This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR).

**ORISE Information:** This program, administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and ARS. Participants do not become employees of USDA, ARS, DOE or the program administrator, and there are no employment-related benefits. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

**Questions:** Please visit our [Program Website](#). After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process please email [ORISE.ARS.Northeast@ornl.gov](mailto:ORISE.ARS.Northeast@ornl.gov) and include the reference code for this opportunity.

**Qualifications** The qualified candidate should have received a doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields or be currently pursuing the degree with completion before 10/31/23. Degree must have been received within three years of the appointment start date.

Preferred skills:

- Ability to work independently to achieve research objectives
- Ability to work as part of a diverse team
- Experience with plant pathogenic fungi
- Experience with molecular biology techniques such as nucleic acid extraction, PCR, sequencing, and DNA sequence analysis
- Demonstrated ability to communicate research finding in peer-reviewed journals and at scientific meetings

**Eligibility Requirements**

- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 36 months or anticipated to be received by 10/31/2023 12:00:00 AM.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - Life Health and Medical Sciences ([11](#) 