

**Opportunity Title:** USDA-ARS Research Opportunity for Laser Weed and Runner Pruning in Strawberry Production

**Opportunity Reference Code:** USDA-ARS-PW-2024-0099

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

**Reference Code** USDA-ARS-PW-2024-0099

**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
- Contact information of two educational or professional references

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

**Application Deadline** 6/21/2024 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

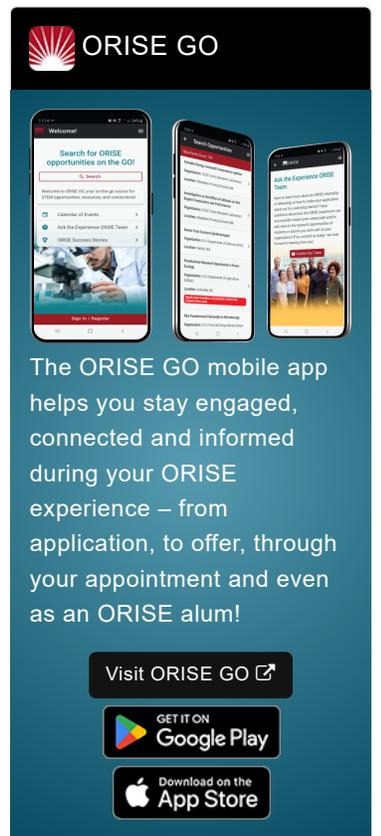
**Description** \*Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.

**ARS Office/Lab and Location:** A research opportunity is currently available with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), located in Salinas, California.

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.

This opportunity will be based at the Sam Farr United States Crop Improvement and Protection Research Center (SFCIPRC) in Salinas, CA. New buildings were recently constructed for this facility, which house ample state-of-the-art laboratory and office spaces. A large, new greenhouse facility is also under construction and should be available in the summer of 2024. The new buildings foster positive interactions between scientists working on a variety of projects, including plant pathology, plant breeding, virology, entomology, and others.

**Research Project:** The participant will be included in research on application of lasers to trim strawberry runners and weeds. The participant test specific laser wavelengths at various durations on strawberry runners and weeds. These plant tissues will be monitored after exposure to



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determine how exposure to lasers contributes to mortality. The participant will determine the minimum duration and wavelength intensity needed to cause runner and weed mortality. Additional opportunities for use of laser- and other technology-based methods for advancement of research in strawberry production and pathology will be advanced through a collaborative research environment through developing and leading experiments and discussing results in a collaborative environment.

**Learning Objectives:** This opportunity will provide hands-on training and experience in developing new technologies for strawberry production. The participant will learn basic strawberry horticulture, weed identification, operation of lasers, interfacing laser technology with horticultural production requirements, laboratory skills, and how to communicate results to an interdisciplinary team.

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

**Anticipated Appointment Start Date:** June 2024. Start date is flexible and will depend on a variety of factors.

**Appointment Length:** The appointment will initially be for one year, but may be renewed upon recommendation of ARS and is contingent on the availability of funds.

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

**Participant Stipend:** The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience.

**Citizenship Requirements:** This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), and foreign nationals. Non-U.S. citizen applicants should refer to the [Guidelines for Non-U.S. Citizens Details page](#) of the program website for information about the valid immigration statuses that are acceptable for program participation.

**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.PacificWest@orau.org](mailto:ORISE.ARS.PacificWest@orau.org) and include the reference code for this opportunity.

**Qualifications** The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have received a bachelor's degree in the one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been

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received within the past five years, or anticipated to be received by 1/1/2025.

Depending on the research project objectives, the selected candidate may need to operate a government owned vehicle (GOV) and will be required to show proof of a valid U.S. State Driver's License and provide proof of an active U.S. auto insurance policy.

- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 1/1/2025 12:00:00 AM.
  - **Discipline(s):**
    - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([17](#) 👁)
    - **Engineering** ([27](#) 👁)
    - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#) 👁)
    - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([51](#) 👁)
    - **Science & Engineering-related** ([2](#) 👁)

**Affirmation** I affirm that:

I am a US Citizen, OR

I am a non-US Citizen currently living in the United States