

Opportunity Title: EPA Fellowship in Water Quality Standards Review

Opportunity Reference Code: EPA-OW-OST-2024-03

Organization U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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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. All transcripts must be in English or include an official English translation. 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. Click [here](#) for detailed information about recommendations.

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

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

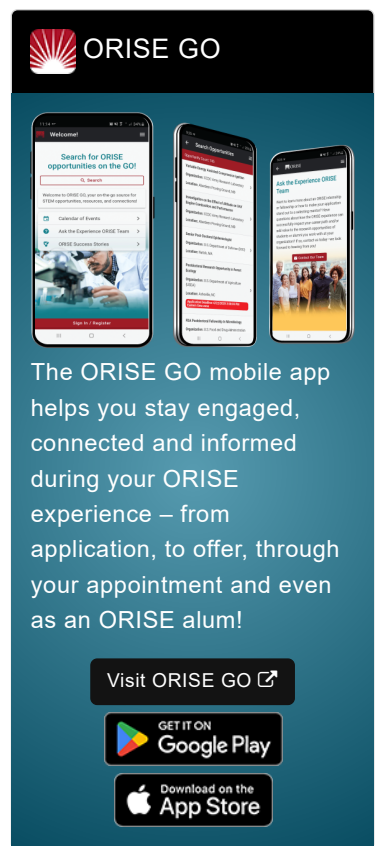
Description ***Applications may be reviewed on a rolling-basis and this posting could close before the deadline.** Click [here](#) for information about the selection process.

EPA Office/Lab and Location: Two research opportunities are currently available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water (OW), Office of Science & Technology (OST), Standards & Health Protection Division (SHPD) in Washington, D.C. SHPD directs the national water programs for water quality standards under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The selected participants will be trained in the Division's Regional Branch (RB), one of the two branches in the Division that work on water quality standards. RB assists EPA Regional Offices in reviewing state and tribal water quality standard submission, promulgates federal water quality standards for states when necessary, conducts technical and economic analyses in support of achieving water quality standards, and coordinates with the National Branch (NB) in developing policies and procedures.

Research Project: The goal of this research project is to support the review of state and tribal water quality standard packages. The research participant will be involved with OST and regional offices in reviewing state and tribal water quality standards submissions, conducting technical and economic analyses in support of achieving water quality standards, and coordinating with the NB in developing policies and procedures. This project will include evaluation of the effectiveness of various technical assistance tools and guidance/ policy documents.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, the participants will explore the role of water quality standards in achieving the goals of the



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CWA, and the relationship between standards and related core CWA programs such as the NPDES permit program and the Section 303(d) listing and TMDL programs. The participants will analyze and learn how to evaluate state-developed standards to determine their adequacy in light of CWA requirements. In addition, the participant will develop skills related to applying relevant EPA regulations and guidance documents.

This opportunity will provide excellent exposure to: (1) a broad range of water pollution control technical and policy issues; (2) the process of applying technical data and information to policy development; (3) interpretation of statutory and regulatory language and its application to state-specific water quality standards proposals and submissions; and (4) synthesizing technical and policy information for presentation to EPA managers and staff and appropriate stakeholder groups.

Mentor(s)/Coordinator: The mentor for this opportunity is Jim Keating (Keating.Jim@epa.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s) or program coordinator.

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: **Spring/Summer 2024.** All start dates are flexible and vary depending on numerous factors. Click [here](#) for detailed information about start dates.

Appointment Length: The appointment may initially be for one year and may be renewed upon EPA recommendation and subject to availability of funding.

Level of Participation: The appointment is full-time. Remote fellowships are not available at this time. Participants are required to be local to EPA HQ upon onboarding and report in-person at least one day a week.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The current stipends for this opportunity are Master's ~\$64,957; PhD ~\$78,592. Funding may be made available to reimburse the participant's travel expenses to travel to workshops, trainings, or conferences related to their participation with the EPA.** Click [here](#) for detailed information about full-time stipends.

EPA Security Clearance: Completion of a successful background investigation by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is required for an applicant to be on-boarded at EPA.

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 EPA. Participants do not become employees of EPA, 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.

ORISE offers all ORISE EPA graduate students and Postdocs a free 5-year

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membership to the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA).







The successful applicant(s) will be required to comply with Environmental, Safety and Health (ES&H) requirements of the hosting facility, including but not limited to, COVID-19 requirements (e.g. facial covering, physical distancing, testing, vaccination).

Questions: Please see the [FAQ section](#) of our website. After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.EPA.OW@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a master's or doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields or be currently pursuing one of the degrees with completion by the appointment start date. Degree must have been received within the past five years.

Preferred skills/experience:

- Familiarity and/or experience with the Clean Water Act and water resources science and management.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.

- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
 - **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 7/8/2024 11:59:00 PM.
 - **Discipline(s):**
 - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#) )
 - **Earth and Geosciences** ([21](#) )
 - **Engineering** ([27](#) )
 - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#) )
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([51](#) )
 - **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([24](#) )

Affirmation I have lived in the United States for at least 36 out of the past 60 months. (36 months do not have to be consecutive.)