

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Analytical Chemistry

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-SEA-2024-0356

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-SEA-2024-0356

How to Apply *To submit your application, scroll to the bottom of this opportunity and click **APPLY**.*

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
- A copy of an abstract or reprint of an article

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

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Application Deadline 1/3/2025 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 New Orleans, Louisiana.

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 occur at the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, LA, within the Food Processing and Sensory Quality (FPSQ) Research Unit. The facilities occupied by FPSQ researchers contain modern GCMS instrumentation, including three Agilent 5977 mass spectrometers with high efficiency sources and one Agilent 5975C mass spectrometer with an inert source. The GCMS systems are equipped with new PAL RSI rail autosamplers and a Gerstel thermal desorption unit. Additional instrumentation in the lab includes an advanced LCMS system (Thermo Fisher Neo Vanquish and Orbitrap Exploris 240), a Bruker TD-



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NMR, a StellarNet UV-VIS spectrophotometer, and an Anton Paar microwave digestion platform.

Research Project: A long-standing challenge in the aquaculture industry is the occurrence of off-flavors in consumer products. This research project is focused on identifying practical solutions to diminish these off-flavors. The participant will conduct research utilizing analytical chemistry techniques for the determination of off-flavor compounds in water, fish, and other food commodities. With mentor guidance, optimized sample preparation and instrumental quantification techniques will be developed to improve analytical capabilities in the Food Processing and Sensory Quality (FPSQ) research unit. The participant will learn various solid phase microextraction techniques, along with the skill of GCMS method development. The participant's research will be part of a collaborative study to understand the dynamics of off-flavors in salmonid aquaculture. Results of this research will be shared with the scientific community through conference presentations and peer-reviewed journals.

Learning Objectives: The participant will learn how to utilize their analytical chemistry skills in a food quality research laboratory. Engagement with multi-disciplinary collaborators will occur to help strengthen research efforts. Effective communication abilities will be developed through interacting with mentors, technicians, and stakeholders.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Rebecca Dupre (Rebecca.Dupre@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: January 2025. 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 and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) only.

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

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additional questions about the application process, please
email ORISE.ARS.Southeast@orau.org and include the reference code for this
opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a doctoral degree in one of
the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five
years.

- Eligibility**
- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- Requirements**
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 month(s).
 - **Discipline(s):**
 - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([I](#) [E](#))
 - **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last
120 month(s).