

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Flavor Research Fellowship

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-PWA-2026-0054

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-PWA-2026-0054

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

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

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Application Deadline 3/27/2026 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 Albany, 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.

Research Project: Scientists at the facility are partnering with other USDA researchers and stakeholders to investigate aroma and flavor compounds found in fresh/processed foods as well as agricultural by-products. Under the guidance of a mentor, the fellow will have the opportunity to establish flavor profiles according to cultivar, maturity index, and processing conditions to identify relationships with food quality and food safety. If time permits, the fellow may conduct research that will extend to understanding the relationship between instrumental flavor analysis and sensory evaluation.

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Learning Objectives: The fellow will gain experience in a variety of advanced analytical techniques, including gas chromatography (GC-MS, GC-FID), liquid chromatography (LC-MS, LC-DAD, LC-ELSD), and various extraction methods (SPME, LLE). In addition, the fellow will learn to summarize data sets, perform basic statistical analyses, and draft research reports. The fellow will be mentored by a food technologist and given additional guidance from a flavor chemist.

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

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: March 2026. 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. **The anticipated stipend range is \$65,184 - \$80,354 annually.**

Citizenship Requirements: This opportunity is available to U.S. citizens 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 additional questions about the application process, please email ORISE.ARS.Midwest@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received or be currently pursuing a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five years or is anticipated to be received near start of appointment.

Preferred Skills:

- Experience in analytical chemistry
- Experience in food science and technology
- Excellent written and oral communication

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Stipend \$65,184.00 – \$80,354.00 Yearly

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

Eligibility • **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only

Requirements • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.

• **Discipline(s):**

- **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#) )

- **Engineering** ([3](#) )

- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([2](#) )

• **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).