

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Sugarcane Phenotyping - Undergraduate Research Internship

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0056

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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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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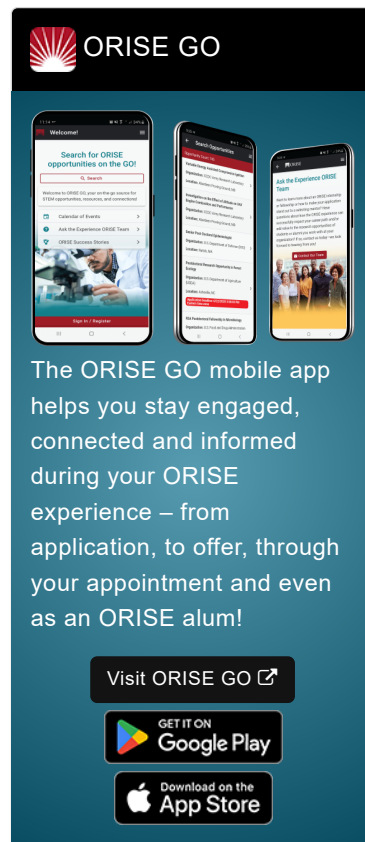
Application Deadline 12/18/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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 Houma, 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.

Research Project: This project is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Center for Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation (CABBI) Bioenergy Research Center. CABBI's mission is to develop efficient ways to grow bioenergy crops, transform biomass into valuable chemicals, and market the resulting biofuels and other bioproducts. It aims to integrate recent advances in agronomics, genomics, and synthetic and computation biology to increase the value of energy crops. The USDA-ARS's role in CABBI is to develop high-yielding energycane varieties that are adapted to the southeastern United States. Assessment of different varieties of cane



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for yield and quality traits (e.g. cold tolerance, recoverable sucrose, biomass yield, disease resistance, etc.) will be conducted as part of this project, which falls under the "Feedstock Production" theme of CABBI. The intern will participate in field and laboratory research to assess cane yield and quality traits.

Learning Objectives: The participant will gain hands-on laboratory experience and learn laboratory techniques (e.g., filtration, pipetting, preparation of solutions, recording and compiling data, etc.) and how to use standard laboratory equipment (e.g., spectrophotometer, pH meters, centrifuge, HPLC, etc.). The participant will also collect field data to assess yield and traits for adaptation to local growing conditions. In addition, they will learn to properly evaluate and collect data for scientific experiments. This research opportunity will teach the participant skills necessary for a future in the field of biological science.

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

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: 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 during the summer months.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend range is \$34,701 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.Southeast@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in

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the one of the relevant fields.

Preferred skills:

- Eager to learn applied plant phenotyping in the field, laboratory, and greenhouse.
- A positive attitude and collaborate well with others.

Stipend \$34,701.00 Yearly

Point of Contact [Sara Beth](#)

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| Eligibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizenship: U.S. Citizen Only |
| Requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Degree: Currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree.• Discipline(s):<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Chemistry and Materials Sciences (6 )◦ Environmental and Marine Sciences (14 )◦ Life Health and Medical Sciences (51 )• Age: Must be 18 years of age |