

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Healthy Ingredients Fellowship

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-PWA-2026-0081

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-PWA-2026-0081

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 4/10/2026 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: The Healthy Processed Foods Research Unit in Albany, California, aims to develop new sustainable technologies that add value to crops and their co-products. The focus is on specialty crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes, with the goal of enhancing both the healthfulness and marketability of food products. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in experiential learning related to the extraction, identification, and purification of bioactive compounds and natural ingredients from agricultural products and their by-products. Additionally, participants will explore further modifications of these compounds and

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ingredients to improve the functional and nutritional properties of food products.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, the participants will:

1. Gain experience in extraction and purification techniques (distillation, fractionation) for ingredients' isolation, identification and modification.
2. Learn scientific and technical knowledge towards applied food research.
3. Learn how to summarize data sets, perform basic statistical analyses, and draft research reports.

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 30, 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 - \$87,803 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.PacificWest@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications The qualified candidate should be currently pursuing or have a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields, anticipated to be received by 6/30/2026.

Preferred skills:

- Experience in analytical and organic chemistry
- Experience in food science and technology

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- Excellent written and oral communication

Stipend \$65,184.00 – \$87,803.00 Yearly

Point of Contact [Janeen](#)

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

Requirements • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree.

- **Discipline(s):**

- **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([8](#))

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

- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([5](#))