

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Research Fellowship in Vector-Virus Interactions in Vegetable Crops

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0103

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0103

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 4/24/2026 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 located in Charleston, South Carolina.

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 USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory (USVL) is seeking a research intern for training opportunities at its research site in Charleston, SC. The USVL generates fundamental and applied information needed for the development and improvement of vegetable crops and solves vegetable production and protection problems for the Southeastern U.S. and nationally. This project aims to generate fundamental knowledge of whitefly-virus-host plant interactions for the development of novel strategies for combating whitefly-borne viral diseases. The intern will contribute to research focused on understanding the genetic basis of

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whitefly-virus-symbiont-plant interactions towards the development of improved management strategies.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of the mentor, the research intern will have the opportunity to learn:

- Practices in applied and basic entomology and plant pathology research
- Research methodologies used in studying vector-endosymbiont-pathogen-host plant interactions
- Molecular biology techniques including genomics, transcriptomics, nucleic acid purification, amplification, Sanger and next generation sequencing, etc.
- Field, greenhouse, and benchtop research practices

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Sharon Andreason (Sharon.Andreason@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.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend is up to \$4,205 per month. A health insurance supplement is included.**

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 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 be pursuing and anticipated to receive by 6/1/2026.

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Stipend \$4,205.00 Monthly

Point of Contact [Sara Beth](#)

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

Requirements • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 6/1/2026 11:59:00 PM.

• **Discipline(s):**

- **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([2](#) 👁)
- **Engineering** ([3](#) 👁)
- **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([4](#) 👁)
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([30](#) 👁)