

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Food Safety Cooperative Research Internship

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-MWA-2026-0278

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-MWA-2026-0278

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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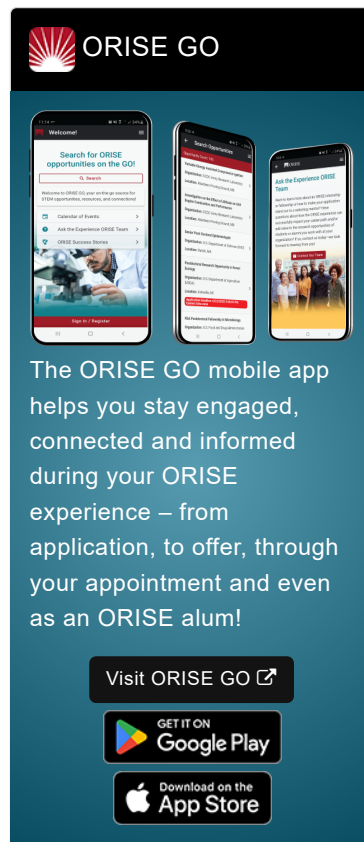
Application Deadline 8/13/2027 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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). **This opportunity is remote.**

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: A research opportunity is available with ARS, in support of the Food Safety National Program. The program coordinates multidisciplinary research aimed at improving the safety, quality, and integrity of the U.S. food supply. You will gain experience within national focus groups within ARS's Food Safety research program, at the intersection of food, data coordination, program and scientific integration. You will collaborate with two of four focus groups: Cattle & Swine; Poultry; Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts; and Mycotoxins.



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Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, you will have the opportunity to learn to:

- Understand how to coordinate scientific efforts and research endeavors.
- Develop skills in data synthesis, scientific documentation, and quality assurance, including collating, validating, and outputs
- Detail how to translate research outputs into stakeholder friendly outputs
- Foster multi team engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration

Mentor(s): The mentors for this opportunity are Martha Vaughan (martha.vaughan@usda.gov), Michael Rothrock (michael.rothrock@usda.gov), and Hillary Mehl (Hillary.Mehl@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentors.

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: August 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 \$5,000 monthly.**

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 a bachelor's degree in one of the relevant fields (Biological Sciences, Microbiology, Data Science, Mathematics, Communications or a related field). Degree must have been received within the past five years.

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Preferred skills:

- Organizational and communication skills.
- Ability to collaborate across teams and disciplines.
- Experience coordinating scientific projects, or synthesizing technical information
- Familiarity with data management, progress reporting, or scientific documentation

Stipend \$5,000.00 Monthly

Point of Contact [Sara Beth](#)

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

Requirements • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree received within the last 65 month(s).

• **Discipline(s):**

- **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#) 👁)
- **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([17](#) 👁)
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([51](#) 👁)
- **Mathematics and Statistics** ([11](#) 👁)
- **Science & Engineering-related** ([2](#) 👁)
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([30](#) 👁)

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