

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Post-Bachelor's Internship in Software Engineering
for Computational Biology

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-MWA-2026-0287

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 8/28/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

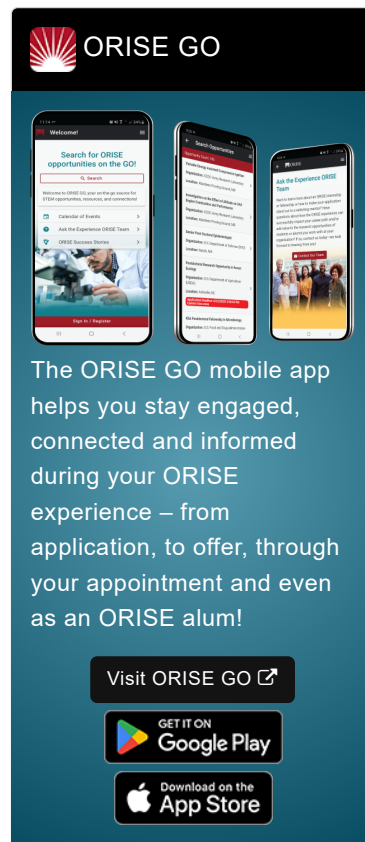
Description ***Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis.**

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 Ames, Iowa.

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.

The mission of the USDA-ARS Corn Insects and Crop Genetics Research Unit (CICGRU) in Ames, Iowa, is to increase crop productivity and sustainability. The unit achieves this through basic and applied research focused on managing insect pests, improving crop genetics, and studying host-pathogen interactions in cereals and legumes.

Research Project: The USDA research project that you will be a part of has a mission to provide stewardship of soybean and other major legume genetic, genomic, and phenotypic datasets, to support research and crop



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improvement. Basic and applied research is also conducted within this project. You will focus on computational tool development to aid in project curation of published biological data, and also to better integrate with other USDA genetic database projects, including GRIN-Global. This will help breeders and researchers to make better use of germplasm data at the ARS germplasm repository, and to utilize software development across the Agency. This opportunity will mostly be conducted in a Unix environment and on high-performance computing equipment.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, you will have the opportunity to learn to: (a) apply methods in software engineering in support of online computational tools such as data curation, preparation, and validation.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Steven Cannon (steven.cannon@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: October 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 \$55,572 - \$87,440 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 a bachelor's degree in the one of the relevant fields (Computer Science, Software Engineering, or comparable field). Degree must have been received within the past five years.

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Preferred skills:

- Knowledge of basic concepts in genomic sequence analysis and plant genetics.
- Unix scripting, knowledge of a scripting language such as Python, Perl, awk, or R, and knowledge of core formats and methods for handling genomic sequence and gene annotation data.

Stipend \$55,572.00 – \$87,440.00 Yearly

Point of Contact [Sara Beth](#)

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

Requirements • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree received within the last 60 month(s).

• **Discipline(s):**

- **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([7](#) 👁)
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([8](#) 👁)

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