

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Fellowship in Microbiology, Food Science, or Chemistry

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0376

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0376

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.

Connect with ORISE...on the GO! Download the new ORISE GO mobile app in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) to help you stay engaged, connected, and informed during your ORISE experience and beyond!"

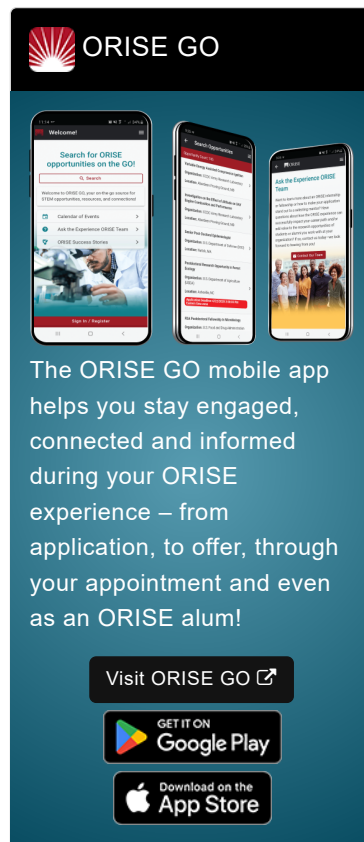
Application Deadline 11/20/2026 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

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 Raleigh, North 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 Food Science & Market Quality and Handling Research Unit is engaged in the development of new and enhanced technologies that support vegetable pickling, by fermentation or acidification, in the USA, under the USDA-ARS National Program 306, Quality and Utilization of Agricultural Products. A current research project evaluates the role of microbes in texture losses of vegetables during processing and long-term storage. You will participate in all aspects of scientific research and laboratory operations with specific and expanded opportunities associated with microscopy using a Keyence Imaging System,



Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Fellowship in Microbiology, Food Science, or Chemistry

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0376

enzyme kinetic assays using microbial cultures, supernatants and/or extracts, and texture measurements on vegetable tissue. You will participate in data collection and analysis and collaboratively advance the development of standard operating procedures for advanced microscopy.

Learning Objectives: Through this educational opportunity, you will develop foundational knowledge and practical skills in the following areas:

- Master routine laboratory techniques to ensure the production of accurate and reproducible data, along with the ability to collect, process, and analyze such data effectively.
- Build proficiency in microscopy techniques and microbial enzyme assays, enhancing understanding of microbial processes.
- Learn methods for measuring food texture, with a specific focus on vegetables, to explore applications in food science.

This experience is designed to foster growth in scientific understanding and technical expertise within a supportive learning environment.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Ilenys M. Perez-Diaz (ilenys.perez-diaz@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: January/February 2027. 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 (40 hours per week).

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend range is \$35,000 - \$50,000 yearly.**

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.

Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Fellowship in Microbiology, Food Science, or Chemistry

Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-SEA-2026-0376

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 (microbiology, chemistry, food science, and/or bioinformatic). Degree must have been received within the past five years or be currently pursuing.

Preferred skills:

- Specific skills in microscopy or the measurement of enzyme kinetic from pure microbial cultures or vegetable texture analysis are desirable.

Stipend \$35,000.00 – \$50,000.00 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** ([1](#) )
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([5](#) )
 - **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).