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Opportunity Title: USDA-ARS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biomass Recycling in Woody Perennial Crops
Opportunity Reference Code: USDA-ARS-PWA-2026-0431

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code USDA-ARS-PWA-2026-0431

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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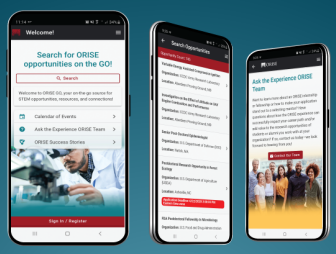
Application Deadline 1/15/2027 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description ***Applications are reviewed on a rolling-basis and applications may close before the deadline.**

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 Davis, California. This fellowship will require monthly travel throughout the Central Valley of California to collect data.

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: You will be mentored by a Research Microbiologist and study the effects of incorporating woody biomass into soil as a regenerative agricultural practice in orchards. Learning activities will include collecting and analyzing data on soil microbiomes and biogeochemistry in experimental and commercial almond orchards in the Central Valley of California and processing sequencing data sets on ARS computing clusters.

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You will have opportunities to partner with stakeholders, collaborate with University of California Cooperative Extension researchers, and collaboratively generate manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals.

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

- Develop skills in microbiome sequencing and analyses
- Acquire experience operating analytical instruments to measure soil physicochemical parameters
- Explore relationships between soil microbiomes and physicochemistry using multivariate statistical techniques
- Develop computational skills using high-performance computing clusters
- Strengthen communication skills with collaborators and stakeholders

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Amisha Poret-Peterson (amisha.poretpeterson@usda.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research, please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: January 1, 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.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **The anticipated stipend range is $6,000 monthly, with a $738.88 health insurance supplement and $3,000 for travel and supplies.**

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 received a

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doctoral degree in the one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five years, or anticipated to be received by 12/31/2026.

Stipend $6,000.00 Monthly

Point of Contact Janeen

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 12/31/2026 12:00:00 AM.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (9 👁)
- **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).