

Opportunity Title: Post-Bachelor's Research Associate in Bioconversion

Opportunity Reference Code: ORNL14-50-EESD

Organization Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)

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Description A Post-Bachelor research associate position is available within the Biosciences Division (BSD) of Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). BSD is seeking a candidate with strong capabilities in fermentation and bioconversion technology.

The successful applicant for this position will support studies focusing on the fermentation of switchgrass and poplar samples for the DOE funded Bioenergy Science Center (BESC), which conducts fundamental and directed research aimed at improved bioenergy solutions. These studies are designed to reveal, from a biofuels perspective, the beneficial outcomes of genetic modification and natural selection. The selected candidate will need to know how to process plant biomass for fermentation, conduct small-scale fermentations, and be able to determine the concentrations of fermentation products by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

The main responsibility will be to perform biotechnology research with anaerobic bacterial and yeast fermentation and bioconversion systems with the goal of providing bioconversion data, plus materials for analysis. In general, the successful candidate will become part of a research team and will be asked to contribute to other aspects of the research, such as reviewing data and preparing summary reports. Attention to details and an ability to rigorously follow standard procedures are essential.


Working knowledge of ESH&Q requirements applicable to environmental/biological science research is a must, as is the intention to keep abreast of any changes in these areas while working strictly according to applicable requirements.

Qualifications Bachelor of Science in Biology, Microbiology, or a closely-related discipline with at least 1 year of postgraduate experience. The successful candidate must have a willingness to learn; be responsible; and able to work independently. Experience preparing biomass for fermentation, conducting small-scale fermentations, ability to analyze fermentation products by HPLC are all assets for the position. The acceptable candidate must have with good communication and interaction skills, be organized and have a desire to work with multidisciplinary teams.

Applicants cannot have received the most recent degree more than three years prior to the date of application and must complete all degree requirements before starting their appointment.

This ORNL Postgraduate Research Associates Program is administered by ORAU through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE).

Eligibility Requirements

- **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree received within the last 36 month(s).
- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([13](#) 



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◦ **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([45](#) )

Affirmation I certify that I have completed coursework towards a degree in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or a related field.

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