

Opportunity Title: Molecular Biology/Virology Laboratory Technician

Opportunity Reference Code: EPA-SSP-0029-13

Organization U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Reference Code EPA-SSP-0029-13

How to Apply Submit application and supporting documents by clicking on Apply Now button.

For more information, contact EPAjobs@orau.org.

Check out our website at: orau.org/epa/

Description The EPA Environmental Research and Business Support Program has an immediate opening for a full-time Molecular Biology/Virology Laboratory Technician position with the EPA facility in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

What the EPA project is about


The Office of Research and Development (ORD) at the EPA supports high-quality research to improve the scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues and assist EPA to achieve its environmental goals. Research is conducted in a broad range of environmental areas by scientists in EPA laboratories and at universities across the country.


ORD is the Agency's focal point for scientific research on the effects of contaminants and environmental stressors on human health and ecosystem integrity. Its research mission and goals help the Agency to identify and understand the processes that affect our health and environment and helps the Agency to evaluate the risks that pollution poses to human and ecosystems.

The division hosting this work engages in research to develop innovative solutions for complex challenges to address EPA's most pressing needs in protecting human health and environment. It conducts systems based, effects research to advance the science toward achieving sustainable communities, health and wellbeing.

What you will be doing


As a team member, you will receive hands-on laboratory experience in support of water quality assessment and aquatic toxicology research, including bacterial and viral-fecal indicators work and sample preparation for qPCR and development of in vitro cell-based assays. You will also assist in laboratory experiments by collecting data and preparing samples. Research will also involve isolation and characterization of environmental microorganisms from an urban watershed, from coastal waters, in order to determine the cause of the impairment. You will be involved in field work, water filtration and concentration of microorganisms, nutrient filtration and molecular applications to


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detect and identify viral and bacterial isolates.

The goal of this project is to characterize species-specific molecular responses (gene expression and protein activation) to nutrients and contaminant exposure. This position will include field work, water filtration and concentration of microorganisms, nutrient filtration and molecular applications to detect and identify viral and bacterial isolates. This research supports the Ecotoxicological Assessment and Modeling Research Area within the Chemical Safety for Sustainability Research Program and SSWR of EPA's Office of Research and Development.

Required skills

- Laboratory training and/or experience in a molecular biology, cell biology, virology, or biochemistry lab;
- Basic experience (at least three months) working in a laboratory setting
- Experience following written protocols;
- Proficiency performing basic chemistry calculations, preparing solutions, and pipetting;
- Conducting laboratory analyses using biochemical assays, in vitro assays, and molecular biology techniques including RNA isolation; PCR, RT-PCR, qPCR, RT-qPCR, DNA and RNA extractions, microbial aseptic techniques and virology;
- Basic experience working with hazardous substances;
- Experience collecting data, maintaining a detailed scientific laboratory notebook, and electronic record keeping;
- Experience with basic laboratory health and safety procedures;
- Strong written, oral and electronic communication skills; and
- Strong organizational skills including experience preparing spreadsheets and PowerPoint presentations as well as demonstrated ability to adhere to assigned deadlines.

How you will apply your skills

- Preparing biological samples and evaluating gene expression. Lab techniques include RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis, qPCR, and gel electrophoresis;
- Collecting data and biological samples for aquatic toxicology experiments;
- Assisting with cell-based reporter assay development and testing;

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- Performing cell cultures in sterile conditions;
- Performing bacterial and viral-fecal indicators work and sample preparation for qPCR and development of in vitro cell-based assays; and
- Performing sample analysis using molecular biology skills such as PCR, RT-PCR, qPCR, RT-qPCR, DNA and RNA extractions, microbial aseptic techniques and virology 7) collect water and process for molecular indicators of fecal contamination (bacterial and viral).

Location: This job will be located EPA's facility in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

Salary: Selected applicants will become temporary employees of ORAU and will receive an hourly wage of \$28.14 for hours worked.

Hours: Full time

Travel: No overnight travel is anticipated

Expected start date: The position is full time and expected to begin October 2019. The initial project is through May 14, 2020, with potential optional periods.

Working conditions: You will be supervised by a mentor who will provide day-to-day direction, as well as coach, advise, counsel and review your work.

Qualifications

- Be at least 18 years of age and
- Have a MS degree in biology, microbiology, virology, molecular biology, biochemistry, and/or genetics, or a closely related field of study from an accredited university or college within the last 24 months and
- Be a citizen of the United States of America or a Legal Permanent Resident.

EPA ORD employees, their spouses, and children are not eligible to participate in this program.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
- **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 24 month(s).
- **Overall GPA:** 2.00
- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** (1 [👁](#))
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (45 [👁](#))

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Affirmation I certify that I am at least 18 years of age; a recent graduate with a MS degree in biology, microbiology, virology, molecular biology, biochemistry, and/or genetics, or a closely related field of study from an accredited university or college within the last 24 months; a citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident of the United States of America; and not a current employee of EPA ORD or the spouse or child of an EPA ORD employee.

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