

Opportunity Title: Environmental Research Assistant
Opportunity Reference Code: EPA-SSP-0022-9-01-27-20

Organization U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

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- *For more information, contact* EPAjobs@orau.org. Do not contact EPA directly.
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Description The EPA National Student Services Contract has an immediate opening for a full-time Environmental Research Assistant with the Office of Research and Development at the EPA facility in Ada, OK.

The Office of Research and Development at the EPA supports high-quality research to improve the scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues and help EPA 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.

What the EPA project is about

The Groundwater, Watershed, and Ecosystem Restoration Division (GWERD) located in Ada, Oklahoma conducts basic and applied research to understand processes that affect the quality and availability of ground water and to evaluate and develop strategies and technologies to protect ground water resources. Scientists conduct research to evaluate ground water flow and factors influencing the fate and transport of anthropogenic and naturally occurring contaminants in the subsurface. Scientists also conduct research focused on ecosystem processes and manipulations that can be used to achieve restoration goals. Additionally, researchers provide technical support to federal and state environmental regulators on issues regarding subsurface contamination, contaminant fluxes to other media (such as surface water and air), and ecosystem restoration.

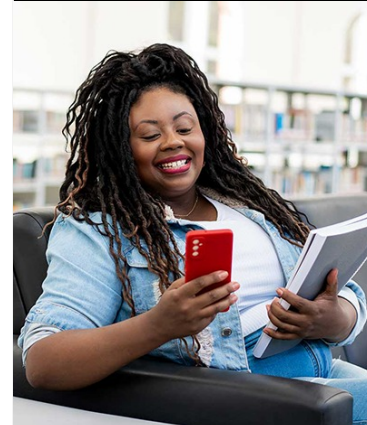
To support these activities, GWERD laboratories are equipped with state-of-the-art analytical instrumentation for chemical characterization of ground water and surface water. The analytical function of the Division is critical to supporting the research and technical assistance mission of the laboratory. This project involves analytical support for the analysis of water to support research to protect surface water resources, field support for collection of samples from selected streams and reservoirs included in the study, spreadsheet and database support for file organization, and additional project support as needed.

What experience and skills will you gain?

As a team member, you will provide laboratory sample analysis (including dry gas, nutrients, and isotopes), method application, method development, field sample collection, logistics, data management, data curation and data analysis support for ecological and biogeochemical research projects



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related to floodplains, ground water, river, and watershed aquatic ecosystems. Your time will be split between the laboratory, field, and administrative desk duties. Primary duties will be assisting with sample analysis, method development, lab management, data collection, and input of that data into electronic formats, performing quality assurance checks on data, analytical support, and any associated administrative duties such as HASP/QAPP development or revisions. You will have the opportunity to assist with geo and biogeochemical methods, analytical sample analysis, data collection activities, data checking/verification activities, data analysis, and occasional field work. You will be assisting with preparation for field trips and log in/receipt of samples for processing after field trips, including glassware washing and field equipment decontamination processes at GWERD. Occasional travel to field sites and assistance with sample collection will be required. You will be collecting data, verifying data, inputting data, and generating reports.

You will need to maintain careful and accurate records in a laboratory notebook, following the requirements of an approved quality assurance project plan (QAPP), document electronic file contents and locations, and make entries as necessary into permanent laboratory instrument logbooks. These notebooks and all other data produced under this order will be the property of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. You will receive training on basic safety requirements at GWERD before you begin work in the laboratory.

Depending upon experience, you may be trained and pass a proficiency test on analytical equipment, sample preparation, and standard operating procedures for the specific equipment. Analytical and research equipment will include, but not limited to gas chromatography, spectrophotometry, fluorometry, Hach Kits, and multi-parameter sondes. You will be capable of writing and communicating procedures and protocols on field and lab activities.

You will receive hands-on lab and field research experience.

Responsibilities may include, but not be limited to: 1) Field trip preparation and sample collection coordination; 2) Developing, managing, and maintaining systems and databases to track lab and field scientific research; 3) Developing procedures and protocols to support geochemical analysis; 4) Developing graphs and presentation materials, prepares spreadsheets, charts, and narrative information, as well as science interpretation. You may be expected to participate in meetings or seminars in support of the Statement of Work.

Required Knowledge, Skills, Work Experience, and Education

- A minimum of 20 credit hours in chemistry;
- Documented course work with laboratory credit in chemistry, physics, and biology
- Experience with laboratory instrumentation including Gas Chromatography (GC), spectrophotometry (UV/Vis Spec), and isotope ratio mass spectrometry;

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- Ability to drive and travel overnight to remote locations;
- Physical ability to lift up to 50 pounds and tolerate hot/cold/wet field conditions during field trips for sample collection;
- Demonstrated experience with Microsoft Products Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook;
- Proficiency in oral, written and electronic communication in English; and
- Demonstrated ability to work independently.

Desired Knowledge, Skills, Work Experience, and Education

- Experience in nitrogen isotopes, gas chromatography for nitrogen, carbon, and other inorganic gasses;
- Experience with field data collection in aquatic systems; and
- Demonstrated experience with R, Access, and EndNote.

Location: This job will be located at EPA's facility in Ada, OK.

Hours: Full time.

Salary: Hourly wage for hours worked at a rate of \$28.14 per hour.

Employer: Selected applicant will become a temporary employee of ORAU working as a contractor at EPA.

Travel: Field travel may be required, including overnight.

Use of Government Vehicles: Use of government vehicles by the candidate is anticipated.

Working Conditions: The selected candidate will be supervised by a mentor who will provide day-to-day direction, as well as coach, advise and counsel the candidate, and review the candidate's work.

Expected Start Date: The position is full-time and expected to begin in February 2020. The initial project is through May 14, 2020 with potential optional periods.

For more information, contact EPAjobs@orau.org. Do not contact EPA directly.

- Qualifications**
- Be at least 18 years of age **and**
 - Have earned at least a Master of Science degree in geochemistry, geology, ecology, biology, limnology, environmental science, chemistry, or environmental engineering 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.
- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
 - **Degree:** Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree received within the last 24 months or anticipated to be received by 1/31/2020 11:59:00 PM.
 - **Overall GPA:** 2.00
 - **Discipline(s):**

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- **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#) )
- **Earth and Geosciences** ([21](#) )
- **Engineering** ([27](#) )
- **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#) )
- **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([45](#) )

Affirmation I certify that I am at least 18 years of age; a recent graduate with at least a Have earned at least a Master of Science degree in geochemistry, geology, ecology, biology, limnology, environmental science, chemistry, or environmental engineering 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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