

Opportunity Title: Post-Bachelor Research Opportunity in Foreign Animal Diseases-Plum Island Animal Disease Center

Opportunity Reference Code: PIADC-USDA-2015-0003

Organization U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Reference Code PIADC-USDA-2015-0003

How to Apply A complete application consists of:

- An application
- A current resume/CV, including academic history, employment history, relevant experiences, and publication list
- Transcripts – [Click here for detailed information about acceptable transcripts](#)

All documents must be in English or include an official English translation.

If you have questions, send an email to piadc@orau.org. Please include the reference code for this opportunity in your email.

Description The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL) at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, New York provides diagnostic capability to assist the States and the USDA in diagnosing and responding to Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) threats. Specifically, the FADDL provides diagnostics for foreign animal diseases including foot and mouth disease, classical swine fever, African swine fever, as well as others.

The selected candidates will work with microbiologists, veterinarians, statisticians, and bio-technicians to support the diagnostic mission. Tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Validate and optimize developmental diagnostic assays for FADs to be used by FADDL and potentially across the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).
- Conduct diagnostic testing in support of foreign animal disease case investigations.
- Summarize findings in reports, standard operating procedures, and other documentation.
- Provide training and expertise regarding validated assays and methods.
- Assist in organization and coordination of laboratory and laboratory projects.
- Learn and participate in select agent management; laboratory equipment maintenance; and containment laboratory support efforts.

For more information about the program visit:

<http://www.orau.gov/piadc/default.htm>

Appointments are for one year. Current funding is available for 18 months. Appointments may be extended in increments of up to one year, contingent upon recommendation of APHIS FADDL, project needs, and funding availability. The maximum length of time a participant can spend in the ORISE program is five years from the initial appointment start date. The participant does not become an employee of APHIS or ORISE.

Selected candidates will receive a stipend as support for their living and other expenses during this appointment. The annual stipend rate for these



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positions will be determined upon selection and will range between \$50,000 and \$70,000. Travel expenses associated with conference attendance are covered. Relocation expenses are not available.

Health insurance is a program requirement. Candidates will be eligible to receive a health insurance allowance. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE.

Work is performed in a BSL-2/3 laboratory. Working with unknown pathogenic agents mandates the use of biocontainment hoods and wearing personal protective gear, which can be strenuous on some individuals.

The position requires daily travel to and from Orient Point, NY or Old Saybrook, CT and Plum Island aboard government-provided marine vessels.

This is an equal opportunity program open to all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, mental or physical disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, or covered veteran's status.

Qualifications The minimum degree requirement is a bachelor's degree.


Required Skills include:

- Knowledge of general laboratory methods including aseptic technique, good laboratory practices (GLP), and the use of common laboratory equipment (centrifuge, micropipettes, biosafety cabinets, etc.).
- Have proficiency in technical writing, oral communication, and organization skills.
- Demonstrate flexibility and self-motivation to complete assigned tasks.
- Eagerness to learn from peers and to work in a team environment.

Preferred skills include:

- A background in molecular biology techniques and methods, to include polymerase chain reaction.
- A background in serology techniques and methods to include, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays.
- Have a familiarity of biostatistics.
- BSL-2/3 laboratory experience.

Eligibility Requirements

- **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree.
- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([12](#) )