Opportunity Title: EPA Postgraduate Research in Aquatic Habitat and Resources
Opportunity Reference Code: EPA-REG9-WD-2022-02

Organization	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Reference Code	EPA-REG9-WD-2022-02
How to Apply	***Connect with ORISE...on the GO!*** Download the new ORISE GO mobile app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to help you stay engaged, connected, and informed during your ORISE experience and beyond!

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. All transcripts must be in English or include an official English translation. 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. Click here for detailed information about recommendations.

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

Application Deadline	12/16/2021 3:00:00 PM Eastern Time Zone
Description	***Applications may be reviewed on a rolling-basis and this posting could close before the deadline.** Click **here** for information about the selection process.

EPA Office/Lab and Location: A postgraduate research opportunity is currently available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9 Water Division located in San Francisco, California. This research opportunity is with the Watersheds Section in the Tribal and State Assistance Branch.

Research Project: EPA manages a competitive grant program to support projects to protect and restore San Francisco Bay. This grant program, the San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (SFBWQIF) began in 2008. The SFBWQIF has invested over $63.5 million in 54 grant awards. These projects include over 80 partners who are contributing an additional $174 million to restore wetlands, watersheds, and reduce polluted runoff. With additional resources that will expand the scope of the grant program, EPA will broaden its investments to ensure that San Francisco Bay ecosystems and communities remain resilient in the face of climate change stressors. With funded projects often being implemented over a 5-7 year time frame, there are opportunities to work with current grantees and better analyze their project monitoring data to inform EPA of expected environmental outcomes.

The SFBWQIF priorities are to support projects that enhance aquatic habitat, restore impaired waters, and reduce polluted runoff. Consistent with program priorities, projects are tracked in three categories: restoring wetlands, restoring water quality, and greening development (e.g., Low Impact Development).

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The SFBWQIF program is authorized under Clean Water Act Section 320 and is consistent with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership's (Partnership's) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), also known as the Estuary Blueprint. The Partnership's work is guided by the implementation of the Estuary Blueprint, a collective vision for the Estuary's future that is updated every five years. The Blueprint seeks to achieve four primary goals:

   1. Sustain and improve the Estuary's habitats and living resources;
   2. Bolster the resilience of Estuary ecosystems, shoreline and communities to climate change;
   3. Improve water quality and increase the quantity of freshwater available to the Estuary; and
   4. Champion the Estuary.

The selected participant will conduct research focused on improving data access, analysis, and communication related to San Francisco Bay environmental (water and habitat quality) and program implementation tracking data. The project will have three focus areas: 1) Assist in developing and implementing an implementation tracking system for EPA's San Francisco Bay Program; 2) Assist in gathering, analyzing, and reporting data on San Francisco Bay environmental indicators, and 3) Assist in gathering and analyzing data to evaluate progress in meeting San Francisco Estuary Partnership's Estuary Blueprint goals.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, the participant will gain an understanding of EPA's estuary management programs and have an opportunity to develop research projects to support EPA's role in working with federal, state, and local governments, academic institutions, environmental organizations, and the general public on San Francisco Bay and Estuary management. The participant will learn first-hand about the interaction between the various levels of government and the private sector on these issues. This project will provide excellent exposure to a broad range of scientific, technical, and policy issues pertaining to water quality protection, habitat protection and restoration, climate resiliency, community sustainability, and public involvement and education. The participant will be involved in groups with colleagues from different organizations and skill sets, collaborate on assessing management and communication needs, research regional and national approaches, and evaluate them.

Mentor(s): The mentor for this opportunity is Luisa Valiela (valiela.luisa@epa.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s).

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: Winter 2021/2022. All start dates are flexible and vary depending on numerous factors. Click **here** for detailed information about start dates.

Appointment Length: The appointment may initially be for one year and may be renewed up to three additional years upon EPA recommendation and subject to availability of funding.

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Level of Participation: The appointment is full-time.

Participant Stipend: The participant will receive a monthly stipend commensurate with educational level and experience. **At this time the annual stipend for master's degree ~$68,000/year. A travel allowance will be provided for pertinent conferences, meetings, and/or trainings, with approval of the project coordinator or mentor.**

EPA Security Clearance: Completion of a successful background investigation by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is required for an applicant to be on-boarded at EPA.

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 EPA. Participants do not become employees of EPA, 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.

ORISE offers all ORISE EPA graduate students and Postdocs a free 5 year membership to the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA).

Questions: Please see the FAQ section of our website. After reading, if you have additional questions about the application process please email ORISE.EPA.REG@orau.org and include the reference code for this opportunity.

Qualifications

The qualified candidate should have received a master's degree in one of the relevant fields, or be currently pursuing the degree with completion by the end of December. Degree must have been received within the past five years.

Preferred skills/experience:

- Database management and statistical analysis (particularly spatial and temporal analysis)
- Modeling and visualization (GIS, Qlik)
- Proficiency in R or other code
- Field sampling and measurement experience

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Master's Degree received within the last 60 months or anticipated to be received by 12/31/2021 11:59:00 PM.
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** (12 👁)
  - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** (17 👁)
  - **Earth and Geosciences** (21 👁)
  - **Engineering** (27 👁)
  - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** (14 👁)
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (46 👁)

- - **Mathematics and Statistics** (10 👁)
  - **Physics** (16 👁)
  - **Social and Behavioral Sciences** (29 👁)
- **Veteran Status:** Veterans Preference, degree received within the last 120 month(s).