

Opportunity Title: EPA Postgraduate Fellowship in National Wetland Condition

Assessment Plant Data Research & Support

Opportunity Reference Code: EPA-OW-OWOW-2022-07

Organization U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Reference Code EPA-OW-OWOW-2022-07

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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 7/25/2022 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's (EPA) Office of Water (OW), Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW) located in Washington, D.C.

Research Project: The selected participant will contribute research to a project designed to support scientific research efforts on wetland plant data collected in the National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA). NWCA is a statistical survey designed to assess the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of wetlands and produce population estimates for indicators of wetland condition at national and regional scales every 5 years. It is a component of EPA's National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) and conducted in close collaboration with state and tribal water quality agencies and federal partners.

Learning Objectives: Under the guidance of a mentor, the participant will have the opportunity to:

- Conduct research on wetland plant species characteristics and compile information on species traits (e.g., nativity, coefficients of conservatism);
- Learn techniques to compile, perform quality assurance, and conduct statistical analysis on national-scale biological data sets;
- Develop skills to communicate results of scientific analysis to diverse audiences of wetland scientists, managers, and policy makers;
- Collaborate with a broad and diverse group of partners to accomplish



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water-quality assessment objectives; and,

- Participate in scientific workshops, trainings, and meetings.

Mentor(s): The mentor(s) for questions about this opportunity is Gregg Serenbetz (serenbetz.gregg@epa.gov). If you have questions about the nature of the research please contact the mentor(s) directly.

Anticipated Appointment Start Date: August 2022. All start dates are flexible and vary depending on numerous factors. Click [here](#) for detailed information about start dates.

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

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 degrees is ~\$61,947 per year and doctoral degrees ~\$74,950.** Click [here](#) for detailed information about full-time stipends.

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).

The successful applicant(s) will be required to comply with Environmental, Safety and Health (ES&H) requirements of the hosting facility, including but not limited to, COVID-19 requirements (e.g. facial covering, physical distancing, testing, vaccination).

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

Qualifications The qualified candidate should have received a master's or doctoral degree in one of the relevant fields. Degree must have been received within the past five years.

Preferred Skills:

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- Experience identifying plants and proficiency in the use of pertinent floras and taxonomic keys for field projects and/or research
- Understanding of plant taxonomy and the use of floras, taxonomic keys, and floristic databases to assist with nomenclatural standardization of plant species names for data spanning a wide geographic range
- Experience compiling information and data describing species traits (e.g., native status, growth habit, coefficients of conservatism, functional traits)
- Experience with plant ecological field work, data collection, and data analysis
- Strong computational skills and experience using the R software environment for data management and analysis
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications (i.e., Excel, PowerPoint, Word, and Outlook)
- Strong organizational, written and oral communication skills

Eligibility

Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Currently pursuing a Master's Degree or Doctoral Degree to be received by 6/30/2022 11:59:00 PM.
- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#) 👁)
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([6](#) 👁)