

**Opportunity Title:** Part-time Toxicology Research Support at EPA

**Opportunity Reference Code:** EPA0028-5-053118

**Organization** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

**Reference Code** EPA0028-5-053118

**How to Apply** **How to apply**

- Submit application and supporting documents by clicking on Apply Now button.
- *For more information, contact* EPAjobs@orau.org. Do not contact EPA directly.

**Description** The EPA Environmental Research and Business Support Program has an immediate opening for a part-time (up to 30 hours per week) Toxicology Research Support with the Office of Research and Development at the EPA facility in Research Triangle Park, NC.

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.

The Integrated Systems Toxicology Division (ISTD) provides research to develop new tools and methods to facilitate the efficient testing of chemicals for important adverse effects including developmental neurotoxicity. There are tens of thousands of chemicals that are currently in commerce, with hundreds more introduced every year. Many of these chemicals find their way into the environment and only a small fraction has been adequately assessed for potential risk. ISTD uses alternative approaches including in vitro assays and small organisms like zebrafish to screen chemicals for the potential to cause developmental toxicity and neurotoxicity. The focus is on developing medium and high-throughput assays that can be used for rapid identification of chemicals that can alter the key events of development and neurodevelopment.

Researchers across EPA are involved in screening chemicals for developmental toxicity. The selected candidate will help test chemicals in larval zebrafish to determine if the chemical is likely to produce developmental or neurodevelopmental toxicity. He or she shall work with other members of ISTD to screen libraries of chemicals of interest to the EPA. The objective of the research project is to test a chemical library in a developing zebrafish model to determine the potential for the chemicals to produce perturbations in the normal development. The selected candidate shall also assist in developing assays for developmental toxicity testing in zebrafish. He or she shall collect, summarize and analyze the data for publication. Ultimately these data will be combined with in vitro data on the same chemicals to develop models and adverse outcome pathways. The selected candidate will be a member of a multi-disciplinary research team and will be trained in zebrafish animal husbandry and specific research protocols for the chemical screening.

**Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:**



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**Chemical Screening responsibilities shall include:**

- Zebrafish husbandry.
- Exposing zebrafish to chemicals to determine if those chemicals cause developmental toxicity or neurotoxicity.
- Assisting with adapting tests for developmental or neurotoxicity testing.
- Maintaining an accurate and timely laboratory notebook.
- Participating in laboratory maintenance.

**Communications-related responsibilities shall include:**

- Participating as a member of a multi-disciplinary research team.
- Interacting with other members of the team as well as other scientists.
- May be asked to present work performed in the course of their EPA student contractor service as a poster or presentation at a scientific conference or other forum.

**Location:** This job will be located at EPA's facility in Raleigh-Durham, NC.

**Salary:** Selected applicants will become temporary employees of ORAU and will receive an hourly wage of \$18.25 for hours worked.

**Hours:** Part-time (up to 30 hours per week).

**Working Conditions:** The selected candidate shall be supervised by a mentor who will provide day-to-day direction, as well as coach, advise and counsel the candidate, and review his/her work. The mentor for this position will be a federal EPA employee. This position will involve working with vertebrate animals and hazardous chemicals, and may involve weekend work.

**Travel:** Occasional overnight travel may be required.

**Expected Start Date:** The position is part time (up to 30 hours per week) and expected to begin June/July 2018. The selected applicant will be a temporary employee of ORAU working as a contractor to EPA. The initial contract period is through May 14, 2019, followed by one (1) additional 12 month option period.

*For more information, contact [EPAjobs@orau.org](mailto:EPAjobs@orau.org). Do not contact EPA directly.*

**Qualifications Qualifications**

**Eligible applicants must:**

- Be at least 18 years of age and
- Have two or more years of college with an emphasis on biology, ecology, developmental biology or a closely related field of study and
- Be a citizen of the United States of America or a Legal Permanent

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Resident.

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

**Required Knowledge, Skills, Work Experience, and Education**

Successful candidate shall have:

- Strong written, oral and electronic communication skills.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications (i.e., Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Outlook).
- Experience working in a laboratory.
- Experience keeping accurate laboratory records

- Eligibility Requirements**
- **Citizenship:** LPR or U.S. Citizen
  - **Degree:** Any degree .
  - **Discipline(s):**
    - **Earth and Geosciences** ([3](#) 👁)
    - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([9](#) 👁)
    - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([45](#) 👁)

**Affirmation** I certify that I am at least 18 years of age; a current student or recent graduate with at least a Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, marine biology, zoology, chemistry, geography, geospatial sciences, or a 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.

ORAU is an Equal Opportunity Employer (**EOE AA M/F/Vet/Disability**); visit the [ORAU website](#) for required employment notices.