

Oak Ridge Institute of Scientific Education (ORISE) Internship Opportunity

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Cincinnati, OH) Office of Water

General

An applied research project, which is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, Department of Energy, is available at the Technical Support Center (TSC) of the Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Under the guidance of a mentor, the participant will gain experience and educational benefits from this project performed at TSC.

Fellowship Research Description

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, requires the U.S. EPA to monitor up to 30 emerging contaminants in drinking water every five years. The U.S. EPA implements this requirement through the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). The data assists the U.S. EPA Administrator in determining whether to regulate an emerging contaminant. TSC implements the UCMR program and manages the key components of this complex regulatory effort. Currently, implementation of the fourth UCMR (UCMR 4) takes place from 2017 through 2021. TSC anticipates the development of the fifth UCMR (UCMR 5) will begin in 2018.

The participant will research the quality control (QC) data trends of newly developed analytical methods. This information lets the U.S. EPA evaluate the accuracy and precision of the methods with nationwide drinking water occurrence data from several different laboratories. The participant will also develop problem solving skills through involvement in several areas of the UCMR program, and by encountering complex issues that arise during the implementation of an environmental rule. Additional research and project opportunities include:

- Learning about the SDWA, the UCMR program and the UCMR data system.
- Participating on the UCMR 5 Workgroup, learning about methods development and the regulatory development process.
- Researching past UCMR data systems, analyzing the data elements, applying those relationships to the current cycle, and developing a database.
- Analyzing, reviewing and evaluating environmental monitoring data in a database, including contaminant occurrence and exposure estimates, and responding to technical issues associated with these data.
- Learning how to perform on-site laboratory and data audits for newly developed analytical methods, and making data reporting easier.
- Writing a formal paper and presenting the information gathered from researching the QC data trends of the analytical methods from the third (UCMR 3) or UCMR 4.

Eligibility

- Preference will be given to Environmental Science majors or related fields.
- Individuals must have at least a Bachelor degree by the start date.
- Individuals must have received their degree within five years of the start date.
- Candidates should possess good oral and written communication skills.
- Candidates must have strong technology skills and be skillful in Microsoft Office, specifically Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- The participant will be selected based upon academic records, recommendations, research interests, compatibility of interests with research programs/projects at TSC, and interview(s) with TSC staff.
- The program is open to all qualified individuals without regard to race, sex, religion, color, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, or status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran. U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status is preferred (but can also hold an appropriate visa status, however, an H1B visa is not appropriate).
While ORISE participants are not U.S. EPA employees, nor does the internship culminate in U.S. EPA employment, participants are certainly welcome to apply for federal positions that may be advertised during the course of the internship.

Contact Information

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Deadline & Submission Requirements

- Application package must be submitted to <https://www.zintellect.com/Opportunity/Details/EPA-OW-OGWDW-2018-01> by July 6, 2018.
- All information required in application (including resume, cover letter, copy of official transcripts, and references or faculty endorsement) must be included.

Additional Information

- Please see the UCMR Website for more information <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr>
- The appointment is for full-time research that must be conducted at TSC in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Anticipated starting stipend is between \$42,978 and \$76,237. The participant will receive a monthly stipend based upon educational level and prior experience.
- The appointment is for up to five years (beginning with one base year, which may be renewed yearly for an additional three to four years upon recommendation of TSC; the maximum duration depends on the participant's degree).
- The participant must show proof of health insurance or must purchase it through ORISE.
- The selected candidate must submit official transcripts from all schools before the start date.