



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Great Lakes Science Center
1451 Green Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2807
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June 6, 2014

Position: Research Laboratory Technician (Student Services Contractor) – 1 position available.

Project: Innovative *Phragmites* Control Strategies: Invasive Species Control and Bioremediation via RNAi treatment,

Location: Wayne State University, Detroit, MI.

Salary: \$24.69/hr.

Duration of position: This is a Student Services Contractor position, to qualify the applicant must either be a current student or have graduated within the previous 12 months. All other applicants are ineligible. The anticipated start date is July 7, 2014. The intended duration is one year, with possible 1 year extension, dependent on Student Services eligibility and/or funding.

Position Description: The student contractor will serve as a Lab Technician and Coordinator in a molecular biology and ecology lab focused on plant gene silencing in the invasive *Phragmites*. The contractor will be based at Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit, MI for all duties, unless otherwise specified. The contractor will play a support role for researchers at WSU and in the Coastal Ecosystems branch of the USGS-GLSC. Duties include, but are not limited to the following: 1) Initiates, coordinates, and executes general molecular biology and molecular ecology experiments in a research laboratory at WSU. 2) Performs technical procedures, mentors other technicians and students, coordinates undergraduate and graduate student research activities in the laboratory, sets-up and maintains scientific materials and equipment, maintains greenhouse specimens and experiments. 3) Assists with sample preparation for next-generation sequencing and subsequent data analysis and assists with preparation and interpretation of single gene expression analysis. 4) Maintains laboratory cleanliness, under supervisory approval orders supplies and materials, and maintains environmental health and safety compliance and general safety within the laboratory. 5) Communicates effectively with team members, promotes a positive work environment, and maintains high levels of professionalism. The student will perform office and lab duties at Wayne State University, with possible occasional trips to field sites or the GLSC. When working in the field, the student will follow a schedule established by their supervisor or the field crew chief. When working in the office/lab, the student may work with their supervisor to establish a suitable schedule.

Education/Experience Requirements: The student must be pursuing or just completed at least a Master's-level degree in molecular biology or a related field. Several years of technical experience working in a molecular biology laboratory is required. The successful candidate must be currently enrolled as a student or must have received a degree within one year prior to beginning the contract. The student must be proficient in general molecular biology techniques. Knowledge of botany, plant pathology, ecology, and or genomics is highly desired. Strong verbal and written skills are important. The student contractor should have a keen sense for attention to detail and a strong desire to learn. S/he also should be highly motivated and comfortable working both as a member of a close team and independently.

Other Details: In the office/lab, the student contractor will be expected to spend extended periods of time seated in front of a computer, standing in a laboratory, or working in a warm greenhouse. USGS and Wayne State University will provide suitable office space and the equipment necessary to complete assigned tasks in the office, lab space and the equipment necessary for the work therein, and all of the equipment and tools necessary to complete assigned field tasks.

The student contractor will be expected to provide their own personal gear (e.g., clothing, toiletries, food) for the duration of field trips. Per diem rates are established and will be paid for field trips lasting 12 hours or more. Student is responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. The Government does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. Transportation may be provided to and from field investigation site(s). The successful candidate will be hired as an independent contractor. The student contractor will not receive holiday pay, annual or sick leave, or health care benefits, nor will they receive overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 80 within a two-week period. Hours in excess of the established 80 per two weeks will be paid at the regular hourly rate of \$24.69. This is not a government position, and time does not count toward time-in-service. The contractor will be responsible for paying taxes to the IRS, as taxes are not withheld by the government.

To ensure consideration of your application, please send a cover letter, resume or CV, and a list of three references to Jeff Allen (jdallen@usgs.gov, 734/214-7284 PH, 734/994-8780 FAX). Applications will be accepted until filled.