

Research Assistant Position - Environmental Science Study on Harmful Algal Blooms

We're excited to offer a unique summer opportunity in environmental science and water quality! Join the WELS Group as a research assistant and contribute to an important study examining the effects of harmful algal blooms on recreational activities at Barr Lake. This project, led by PhD candidate Noura Al Ahbabi under the guidance of Dr. Karen Bailey, involves visits to Barr Lake State Park for water quality sampling and surveying recreationists. This position entails hands-on fieldwork, including conducting surveys to gather data on visitor experiences. We aim to better understand how harmful algal blooms affect recreational activities and water quality, ultimately contributing to community health and safety. This is a great opportunity for anyone passionate about environmental research and fieldwork.

Duration: July 15 to September 2024

Weekly Hours: Approximately 6-8 hours per week, including fieldwork and data entry/analysis.

Schedule:

Fieldwork Days:

- July: 24, 27
- August: 11, 13, 28, 31
- September: 8, 10, 25, 28

Fieldwork Hours: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM each scheduled day (5 hours/day). During these hours, you will conduct surveys with visitors to gather data on their recreational experiences and perceptions of water quality.

Data Entry and Analysis Hours: Flexible days in July, August, and September, totaling 20 hours (approximately 6-7 hours each month), scheduled flexibly on non-fieldwork days. These hours will be dedicated to entering survey data into our databases, performing preliminary analyses, and preparing reports on the findings from the visitor surveys. This work is essential for understanding the patterns and impacts of harmful algal blooms on Barr Lake's recreational use.

Responsibilities Include:

- Interact with visitors to conduct surveys on their recreational experiences.
- Manage data entry and perform preliminary analysis of survey data collected from fieldwork.
- Assist with equipment preparation necessary for efficient fieldwork and survey administration.

Minimum Requirements:

- Has reliable transportation to and from Barr Lake Park.
- Comfortable working near water bodies and capable of handling physically demanding field conditions, including exposure to weather elements, extended periods outdoors, manual labor, navigating rough terrain, and physical exertion.
- Possesses excellent organizational skills, is self-motivated, and has a dependable work ethic.
- Capable of performing preliminary analyses and preparing reports based on the collected data.

Desired Requirements:

- Strong interest in environmental science or aquatic ecology.
- Experienced in conducting surveys, with strong interpersonal communication skills to effectively engage with the public.

Compensation: \$25 per hour

Benefits of Joining Us:

- Gain invaluable research experience in a real-world setting.
- Work in a supportive team environment.
- Contribute to research that can make a real impact on community health and safety.

Additional Note: Due to potential variable weather conditions, flexibility is required. Candidates should be prepared to adjust schedules based on weather forecasts and be on call for schedule changes.

To Apply: Email your CV/resume, contact information for 2 references, a short statement or cover letter (less than 1 page) describing why you are interested in this position and how it fits into your personal, educational, and/or career goals, and your availability in the months of July, August, and September to Noura Al Ahbabi (noal6578@colorado.edu).

We look forward to your application and the possibility of you joining our team this summer!