

Postdoctoral Associate in Coastal Water Quality Mississippi State University

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Posted Jun. 29, 2020, set to expire Oct. 29, 2020

Job Title	Postdoctoral Associate in Coastal Water Quality
Department	Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Institution	Mississippi State University Starkville, Mississippi
Date Posted	Jun. 29, 2020
Application Deadline	open until filled
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Post-Doc
Academic Field(s)	Natural Sciences Geography Geology - Hydrogeology Geology - GIS Geology/Geosciences - General Environmental Sciences/Ecology/Forestry Earth Sciences
Job Website	http://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/cw/en-us/job/500205?ApplicationSubSourceID=
Apply Online Here	http://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/cw/en-us/job/500205?ApplicationSubSourceID=
Apply By Email	
Job Description	

Position function: Water quality in the Mississippi Sound is affected by natural variability and management decisions. Management decisions may (or may not) be causing a wide variety of impacts that have important social, economic, and ecological significance. For example, the Bonnet Carre

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Spillway has opened four times in the last three years and the Mississippi Sound Barrier Islands are eroding and being rebuilt by the USACE. There have been massive die offs in oyster reefs since 2010, harmful algal blooms caused beach closures in 2019, dolphin strandings and crab mortality show signs of increase, and there are decreases in shrimp production. These management decisions and ecosystem impacts have been discussed widely in scientific circles and popular press; however, little has been done to quantify changes in water quality and assign causal ecosystem relationships. This is, in part, due to the complex hydrodynamics of the system. Freshwater flows from the Rigolets, Pearl River, and Mobile River are variable and water quality in the Mississippi Sound is further influenced by tidal circulation and winds. Moreover, ecosystem responses are based on interactive relationships between water quality parameters such as temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen. These relationships complicate our understanding and management of water quality and ecosystem health in the Mississippi Sound.

This position will entail compiling and analyzing existing hydrodynamic, water quality, and ecological datasets with the goal of identifying drivers of water quality in the Mississippi Sound. This information will be useful in informing monitoring, management, and restoration efforts. Activities will also include interactions with ongoing research and resource managers. The results will allow for a better understanding of the spatial and temporal relationships between water quality and ecosystem health in the Mississippi Sound and Bight, as well as an improved capacity for management policies towards increased sustainability and resilience.

Essential duties and responsibilities: Conduct research on spatially and temporally variable coastal hydrodynamics, water quality and ecology in the Mississippi Sound; write reports and peer reviewed publications; and other duties assigned by supervisor.

Minimum qualifications: PhD in environmental science, engineering, or related field

Preferred qualifications: Experience with coastal watershed processes, physical nutrient and phytoplankton dynamics, and coastal ecosystem-integrated approaches.

Knowledge, skills and abilities: Processing and analysis of large data bases; GIS and water quality modeling; computer coding; and statistical software

Working conditions and physical effort: The applicant must have the ability to perform routine office work as well as coastal field work.

Instructions for applying: Apply on-line by submitting a cover letter, resume, copy of your PhD transcript, and list of three references. <http://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/cw/en-us/job/500205?!ApplicationSubSourceID=>

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Salary: Commensurate with experience

EEO/AA Policy

Mississippi State University assigns a high priority to the implementation of its equal opportunity policy and to maintaining an inclusive environment. The realization of this priority requires the cooperation of all members of the University community, each of whom must take responsibility for ensuring that work and learning environments are free from discriminatory behavior of any kind. The University community should be guided not only by what is legally required, but also by fairness, working together to ensure that the University clearly and unequivocally demonstrates commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, values the contributions of every individual, and benefits from its diversity.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

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