Research Associate (Environmental DNA Lab Technician)
Auburn University

Job Title	Research Associate (Environmental DNA Lab Technician)
Department	School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences
Institution	Auburn University Auburn, Alabama
Date Posted	Aug. 29, 2025
Application Deadline	Open until filled
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Research Scientist/Associate
Academic Field(s)	Marine/Freshwater Sciences Biology - Molecular
Job Website	https://www.auemployment.com/postings/55741
Apply By Email	

Job Description

The School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences at Auburn University is seeking a Research Associate for a full-time position in the environmental DNA (eDNA) lab operated by Dr. Jessica Rieder. This position contributes to the Department of the Interior's Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Framework by assisting Auburn University in processing eDNA samples for invasive species surveillance. The role emphasizes generating high-quality eDNA data in collaboration with Federal, State, and Tribal partners to strengthen invasive species monitoring within the EDRR Network. This is a full-time, soft-money position that is funded for at least one year, with the potential for renewal.

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Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Conduct eDNA laboratory procedures, including sample collection and filtration, DNA extraction, PCR/qPCR amplification, and potentially library preparation for high-throughput sequencing to generate metabarcoding eDNA data.
- Accurately track and manage samples using a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) or equivalent data management tools.
- Follow and help maintain standard operating procedures in alignment with Department of the Interior guidelines and Molecular Lab Network protocols.
- Assist in quality control assessments of molecular data and ensure accurate documentation of results and lab activities.
- Participate in bioinformatic preprocessing and analysis of sequencing data.
- Collaborate with team members to support field sampling and sample intake.
- Contribute to the preparation of technical reports, presentations, and manuscripts as appropriate.
- Maintain rigorous contamination control by adhering to clean laboratory protocols.
- Maintain laboratory organization, inventory, and cleanliness.
- Perform other duties as assigned in support of eDNA research.

Minimum Qualifications

Research Associate II: Master’s degree and 2 years of experience in research practices and protocols relevant to the position.

Research Associate III: Master’s degree and 4 years of experience in research practices and protocols relevant to the position.

Research Associate IV: Master’s degree and 6 years of experience in research practices and protocols relevant to the position.

Minimum Skills, License, and Certifications

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Molecular Laboratory Experience: Prior work in a molecular biology laboratory, including adherence to standard laboratory safety and contamination-prevention protocols.

eDNA Workflow Knowledge: Familiarity with key eDNA workflow steps, encompassing sample filtration and extraction, PCR amplification, and quantitative PCR (qPCR).

Laboratory Documentation: Ability to maintain detailed laboratory records and follow established standard operating procedures.

Quality Control Awareness: Basic understanding of data quality control measures in molecular workflows.

Contact Information

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

Contact

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