



## United States Department of Agriculture

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE  
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Position Title:** Biological Science Technician

**Series/Grade:** GS-404-4/5/6/7/8/9

**Salary:** \$23,863 - \$58,903 per annum - depending on location of position

**Type of Appointment:** Non-competitive Appointments for Persons with Disabilities - temporary and permanent/part-time and full-time

**Location of Position:** Albany and Parlier, CA, Phoenix and Tucson, AZ, Pullman, WA, Corvallis, OR

**Announcement Number:** ARS-W4W-0001

**Opening Date:** OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

**Note:** Applications will be considered for one year from receipt - applicants must reapply for continued, non-competitive consideration.

**Area of Consideration:** APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE UNDER ONE OF THE SPECIAL HIRING AUTHORITIES LISTED BELOW. IF QUALIFIED, YOU MAY BE REFERRED AUTOMATICALLY FOR CONSIDERATION. IN APPLYING, INDICATE LOCATIONS FOR WHICH YOU WISH TO BE CONSIDERED.

**30 Percent Disabled Veteran -** Prior military with a disability rating of 30 percent or more. Time limits do not apply to a veteran with a 30 percent or more service-connected disability. Submit all DD-214(s) (Member-4 Copy) showing type of discharge, SF-15 and supporting documentation (i.e., Veterans Administration (VA) letter dated within 12 months).

**Applicants with Disabilities -** Applicants who have a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major life activities. Submit a letter dated within the last 12 months from a State Vocational Rehabilitation Service or the VA.

**DUTIES:** This position is in a laboratory, field, and/or greenhouse setting and the incumbent performs the following:

Assists scientist(s) in one or more phases of the research process.

Participates in the planning and sequencing of projects.

Operates and maintains specialized equipment and automated systems.

Collects and evaluates samples and maintains records.

Prepares, maintains, and disposes of chemicals.

Selects appropriate methods and procedures.

Interprets and documents findings through charts, graphs, and reports.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Applicants must meet the following experience or education requirements:

**GS-4:** 6 months general experience AND 6 months of specialized experience OR 2 years of education above high school with at least 12 semester hours in any combination of courses listed below under Education.

**GS-5:** 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-4 OR 4 years of education above the high school level.

**GS-6 and above:** 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade OR directly related graduate education as outlined below.

**General Experience:** Work that provided experience in the application of techniques and processes in the biological and agricultural sciences.

**Specialized Experience:** Experience that equipped the applicant with:

1. Knowledge of biological science methods and procedures.
2. Ability to operate and maintain laboratory equipment and instruments.
3. Ability to collect, analyze and summarize data.

**Education:** Successful completion of a 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study in an appropriate field of biological science or that included at least 24 semester hours in any combination of courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics meets the requirements for GS-5. At least 6 semester hours must have been directly related to the position.

**Graduate education:** GS-6: ½ yr.; GS-7: 1 yr.; GS-8: 1-1/2 yrs.; GS-9: 2 yrs.

#### **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

**HOW TO APPLY:** Send a resume, Curriculum vitae, Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612), or SF-171 to the Contact address listed below. The following information is required to evaluate applicant qualifications and to determine if applicants meet legal requirements for Federal employment:

- Announcement number, title, and grade(s)
- Full name, mailing address (including zip code) and day and evening phone numbers (with area code)
- Social security number
- Identify country of citizenship (**U.S. citizenship is required**)
- **Documentation for 30% disabled veterans: DD-214(s) showing type of discharge, SF-15 and supporting documentation (i.e. Veterans Administration (VA) letter dated within 12 months).**
- **Documentation for applicants with disabilities - letter dated within the last 12 months from a State Vocational Rehabilitation Service or VA.**
- **Locations for which you wish to be considered.**
- Highest Federal civilian grade held (if applicable)
- Highest education level achieved. Specify:
  - Name, city, state, zip code (if known)
  - Date or expected date (month/year) of completion of degree requirements
  - Type of degree received
  - Graduates of foreign universities must include proof of foreign education equivalency to an accredited U.S. college/university
- Copy of college transcripts or list of college courses (if required under **QUALIFICATIONS** or if applicable to the position).
- Paid and nonpaid work experience related to the position. For each work experience include:
  - Job title
  - Series/grade (if Federal employment)
  - Duties and accomplishments
  - Employer's name and address
  - Supervisor's name and address
  - Starting and ending dates
  - Hours per week
  - Salary
  - Indicate if we may contact current supervisor/employer
- Job-related:
  - Training courses (title and year)
  - Skills (e.g., other languages, typing speed, computer software/hardware, tools, etc.)
  - Certificates/licenses (current)
  - Honors, awards, and special accomplishments

#### **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality and extent of their experience, education, and accomplishments. This may include factors such as number of credits in directly related subjects, grade point average, relatedness of work experience, and any other evidence of ability to do the work of the position.

- Males over age 18 who were born after December 31, 1959, must have registered with the Selective Service System (or have an exemption) to be eligible for a Federal job.

- **If applications do not contain all of the requested information, applicants may lose consideration for the job.**

- **If applicants make a false statement in any part of their application, they may not be hired; may be fired after they begin work; or may be fined or jailed.**

- Applicants will not be notified of the status of their application until a final selection has been made.

- Applications submitted via Government envelopes, will not be accepted.

**EEO STATEMENT:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice or TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). **USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

**ACCOMMODATION:** This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process or have questions/concerns regarding reasonable accommodation and/or accessibility for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact Sue Dixon, ARS, Civil Rights Staff, 202-690-0372 or DC Relay Service: 202-855-1234 (TDD). The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

**CONTACT:**

For a copy of this vacancy announcement and/or applications forms, call 301-504-1482.

For specific questions regarding this vacancy only, call: Lisa Porter, 301-504-1388

Submit applications to:

USDA, Agricultural Research Service  
Human Resources Division  
ATTN: Lisa Porter/ARS-W3W-0001  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705

FAX applications to: 301-504-1535

E-MAIL applications to: [scirecruit@ars.usda.gov](mailto:scirecruit@ars.usda.gov) **(If submitting applications via E-mail, be sure to mail or fax other required documentation such as college transcripts, or DD-214/SF-15 separately and include the vacancy announcement number of the position.)**

**TO BE CONSIDERED FOR OTHER JOB OPPORTUNITIES APPLICANTS MUST SUBMIT A SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR EACH ANNOUNCED VACANCY. FOR EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION AND CURRENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES:**

**INTERNET ADDRESS:** [www.ars.usda.gov](http://www.ars.usda.gov)

**DIAL-A-VACANCY:** 301-504-1482

**DC RELAY SERVICE:** 202-855-1234 (TDD)