

Research Chemist

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Research Service

Accepting applications

Open & closing dates

🕒 02/04/2021 to 03/06/2021

Pay scale & grade

GS 12 - 13

Appointment type

Permanent

Service

Competitive

Salary

\$87,198 to \$134,798 per year

Work schedule

Full-Time

Locations

1 vacancy in the following location:

Beltsville, MD

1 vacancy

Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

Telework eligible

Yes as determined by agency policy

This job is open to



[Career transition \(CTAP, ICTAP, RPL\)](#)

Federal employees who meet the definition of a "surplus" or "displaced" employee.



[The public](#)

U.S. citizens, nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

Clarification from the agency

Applications will be accepted from any U.S. citizen. Direct Hire Authority will be used to fill this position. Veterans Preference and traditional rating and ranking of applicants does not apply to this vacancy.

Announcement number

ARS-DHAS21Y-11016457-JL

Control number

591426400

Duties

Summary

This position is located in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), Field Organization, Northeast Area, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, in Beltsville, MD.

The incumbent research involves isolation and identification of natural and synthetic chemicals that affect arthropod behavior, synthesis of compounds for bioassays, and development of new strategies for use of behavior-modifying chemicals in integrated pest management.

Responsibilities

- Conceive and establish a research project and develop collaborative efforts within ARS and outside the Agency with national and international scientists to enhance research efforts.
- Discover and identify new biologically active natural products that can be useful in monitoring or managing economically important arthropods.
- Develop methods for use of new compounds in integrated pest management practice that will reduce or eliminate dependence upon pesticide-based control programs.
- Identify compounds by using sophisticated instrumental techniques such as GC-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, and micro-chemical reactions.
- Perform close interaction between chemical, electrophysiological, biochemical, and entomological disciplines, as well as the ability to correlate chemical structure, biological activity, and function.
- Act as a bridge between the disciplines to enhance the probability of successful scientific and pragmatic outcomes of the research program through an extensive network of cooperating agencies.

Travel Required

Occasional travel - You may be expected to travel for this position.

Supervisory status

Yes

Promotion Potential

15

Job family (Series)**[1320 Chemistry](https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?j=1320)**

<https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?j=1320>

Requirements

Conditions Of Employment

- You must be a US Citizen or US National
- Males born after 12/31/1959 must be Selective Service registered or exempt
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check
- Direct Deposit ? Per Public Law 104-134 all Federal employees are required to have federal payments made by direct deposit to their financial institution.
- Successfully pass the E-Verify employment verification check. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, visit E-Verify at <https://www.e-verify.gov/>.
- Successful completion of a three year probationary period.

Qualifications

Applicants must meet all qualifications and eligibility requirements by the closing date of the announcement including specialized experience and/or education, as defined below.

Basic Requirements

Applicants must meet the basic requirements for the series listed below in addition to the minimum qualifications.

Degree: physical sciences, life sciences, or engineering that included 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by course work in mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics.

OR

Combination of education and experience -- course work equivalent to a major as shown in A above, including at least 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

AND

In addition to meeting the basic requirements described above, applicants must also meet additional qualification requirements as stated below.

GS-12:

Applicants must demonstrate at least one full year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-11 grade level in the Federal service or possess a Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree or possess an equivalent combination of graduate level education and experience. Graduate education must be directly related to the work of the position and must have equipped applicants with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work.

Specialized experience is experience directly related to the position to be filled. The specialized experience requirements for the GS-12 level of this position are: Experience conducting independent research related to insects and pest management; and publishing independent research results in peer-reviewed journals related to chemistry.

GS-13:

Applicants must demonstrate at least one full year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-12 grade level in the Federal service. Specialized experience is experience directly related to the position to be filled. The specialized experience requirements for the GS-13 level of this position are: Experience leading, coordinating and conducting research related to insects and pest management; primary authorship of peer-reviewed journals related to chemistry; and demonstrated work with internal and external stakeholders.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

To further support your qualifications, it is strongly recommended that you submit a one-page abstract of your MS thesis and/or Ph.D. dissertation. Failure to do so could result in loss of your consideration/referral. Also, please submit a list of names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons familiar with your stature, contributions, recognition; any honors or awards received; memberships in professional or honor societies; invitations to make presentations at scientific/technical meetings; scientific society office and committee assignments; presentations (other than invitation); and publications.

Applicants must be available to report for duty at the time a selection is made. Selections are typically made within 30 days of the closing date of the announcement.

Education

Please see above for education qualification requirement information.

Additional information

CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORT: Federal employees are subject to prohibitions against officially dealing with outside organizations in which they have a financial interest. If hired for this position, you **may** be required to submit a financial disclosure report within 30 days of the effective date of your appointment and annually thereafter.

Career Transition Assistance Plan (CTAP), Reemployment Priority List (RPL), or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan (ICTAP): Visit the [OPM](http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/) (<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/workforce-restructuring/employee-guide-to-career-transition/>) website for information on how to apply as a CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP eligible. To exercise selection priority for this vacancy, CTAP/RPL/ICTAP candidates must meet the basic eligibility requirements and all selective factors. CTAP/ICTAP candidates must be

rated and determined to be well qualified (or above) based on an evaluation of the competencies listed in the How You Will Be Evaluated section. When assessed through a score-based category rating method, CTAP/ICTAP applicants must receive a rating of at least 71 out of a possible 100.

Recruitment or Relocation Incentive may be authorized. Final determination to pay an incentive will be made by the hiring official at time of job offer.

How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated in accordance with the category rating procedure as defined in the USDA Demonstration Project Plan. Applicants who meet the basic minimum qualification requirements established for the position will be placed in the Eligible category. Eligible applicants will be further evaluated against criteria for placement in the Quality category. This evaluation is based on the level of your experience, education, and/or training as determined by your responses to the Assessment Questionnaire. Applicants with veterans' preference are listed ahead of applicants who do not have veterans' preference within each category.

Note: If, after reviewing your resume and/or supporting documentation, a determination is made that you have inflated your qualifications and or experience, your score may be adjusted to more accurately reflect your abilities, or you may be found ineligible. Please follow all instructions carefully. Errors or omissions may affect your rating. Providing inaccurate information on Federal documents could be grounds for non-selection or disciplinary action up to including removal from the Federal service.

Clicking the link below will present a preview of the application form; i.e. the online questionnaire. The application form link below will only provide a preview and does not initiate the application process. To initiate the online application process, click the "Apply" button to the right.

To view the application form, visit: <https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/11016457>
(<https://apply.usastaffing.gov/ViewQuestionnaire/11016457>).

Background checks and security clearance

Security clearance

[Not Required](#)
(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/>).

Drug test required

No

Position sensitivity and risk

[Non-sensitive \(NS\)/Low Risk](#)
(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/>).

Trust determination process

[Suitability/Fitness](#)
(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/faq/job-announcement/security-clearances/>).

Required Documents

The following documents are required for your applicant package to be complete. Our office cannot be responsible for incompatible software, your system failure, etc. Encrypted documents will not be accepted. Failure to submit required, legible documents may result in loss of consideration.

- Resume that includes: 1) personal information such as name, address, contact information; 2) education; 3) detailed work experience related to this position as described in the major duties including work schedule, hours worked per week, dates of employment; title, series, grade (if applicable); 4) other qualifications.
- If education is required or you are using education to qualify, you must submit a copy of your college transcripts. An unofficial copy is sufficient with the application if it includes your name and the necessary course information; however, if you are selected, you will be required to submit official transcripts prior to entering on duty. Education must have been successfully obtained from an accredited school, college or university. If any education was completed at a foreign institute, you must submit with your application evidence that the institute was appropriately accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as equivalent to U.S. education standards. There are private organizations that specialize in this evaluation and a fee is normally associated with this service. For a list of private organizations that evaluate education, visit the [NACES](http://www.naces.org/members.htm) (<http://www.naces.org/members.htm>) website. All transcripts must be in English or include an English translation.
- If claiming veteran's preference, you must submit a DD214, Certificate of Release from Active Duty, which shows dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions. If currently on active duty you must submit a certification of expected discharge or

release from active duty service under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date the certification is submitted. Veteran's preference must be verified prior to appointment. Without this documentation, you will not receive veteran's preference and your application will be evaluated based on the material(s) submitted.

- If claiming 10-point veteran's preference you must provide the DD214 or certification requirements (see above bullet), plus the proof of entitlement of this preference as listed on the SF-15 Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference. The SF-15 should be included but is not required. Failure to submit these documents could result in the determination that there is insufficient documentation to support your claim for 10-point preference. For more information on veterans' preference visit [FEDSHIREVETS](https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/veterans-preference/#content) (<https://www.fedshirevets.gov/job-seekers/veterans-preference/#content>).
- Surplus or displaced employees eligible for CTAP, RPL, or ICTAP priority must provide: proof of eligibility (RIF separation notice, notice of proposed removal for declining a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area, notice of disability annuity termination), SF-50 documenting separation (as applicable), and your most recent SF-50 noting position, grade level, and duty location with your application per 5 CFR 330.

Benefits

A career with the U.S. Government provides employees with a comprehensive benefits package. As a federal employee, you and your family will have access to a range of benefits that are designed to make your federal career very rewarding.

- [Benefits for federal employees](https://www.usa.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees#item-36407) (<https://www.usa.gov/benefits-for-federal-employees#item-36407>)
- [Healthcare insurance](https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/) (<https://www.opm.gov/healthcare-insurance/>)
- [Pay and leave](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/pay-and-leave/) (<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/pay-and-leave/>)

Eligibility for benefits depends on the type of position you hold and whether your position is full-time, part-time, or intermittent. Contact the hiring agency for more information on the specific benefits offered.

How to Apply

Please read the entire announcement and all instructions before you begin. You must complete this application process and submit all required documents electronically by 11:59p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on the closing date of this announcement.

Applying online is highly encouraged. We are available to assist you during business hours (normally 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m., Monday - Friday). If applying online poses a hardship, contact the Agency Contact listed below well before the closing date for an alternate method. All hardship application packages must be complete and submitted no later than noon ET on the closing date of the announcement in order to be entered into the system prior to its closing.

This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities on a case-by-case basis; contact the Agency Contact to request this.

To begin, click "Apply" and follow the instructions to complete the Assessment Questionnaire and attach your resume and all required documents.

NOTE: If a document is resubmitted, it replaces the previous submission, which means the previous document is no longer available to the Human Resources Office. If you are adding to, rather than replacing a previous submission, you must upload both the old document and the new document. You must verify that uploaded documents from USAJOBS transfer into the Agency's staffing system as there is a limitation to the number of documents that can be transferred. However, once in the Agency's staffing system, you will have the opportunity to upload additional documents. Applicants may combine all like required documents (e.g. SF-50s or veteran docs) into one or more files and scan for uploading into the application. Each file must not exceed 3MB. Grouping like documents into files will simplify the application process. Documents must be in one of the following formats: GIF, JPEG, JPG, PDF, PNG, RTF, or Word (DOC or DOCX). Uploaded documents may not require a password, digital signature, or other encryption to open.

Agency contact information

 Jeffrey Lengyel

Phone

[703-574-1693](tel:703-574-1693)
(tel:703-574-1693)

Email

Jeffrey.Lengyel@usda.gov
(mailto:Jeffrey.Lengyel@usda.gov)

[Learn more about this agency](#)
(#agency-modal-trigger)

Address

Agricultural Research Service
10300 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705
US

Find Solutions to Agricultural Problems that Affect Americans Every Day, From Field to Table.

Next steps

Your application will be reviewed to verify that you meet the eligibility and qualification requirements for the position prior to issuing referral lists to the selecting official. If further evaluation or interviews are required, you will be contacted. Log in to your [USA JOBS](#) (<https://www.usajobs.gov/>) to check your application status. We expect to make a final job offer approximately 40 days after the deadline for applications.

Multiple positions may be filled from this announcement.

Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is setup to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

The United States Government does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

- [Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) for federal employees & job applicants](https://www.eeoc.gov/federal/fed_employees/index.cfm)
(https://www.eeoc.gov/federal/fed_employees/index.cfm)

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process should follow the instructions in the job opportunity announcement. For any part of the remaining hiring process, applicants should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

A reasonable accommodation is any change to a job, the work environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to apply for a job, perform job duties or receive equal access to job benefits.

Under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodations when:

- An applicant with a disability needs an accommodation to have an equal opportunity to apply for a job.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to perform the essential job duties or to gain access to the workplace.
- An employee with a disability needs an accommodation to receive equal access to benefits, such as details, training, and office-sponsored events.

You can request a reasonable accommodation at any time during the application or hiring process or while on the job. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Learn more about [disability employment and reasonable accommodations](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/)
(<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/disability-employment/reasonable-accommodations/>)
or [how to contact an agency](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/application/agency/contact/).
(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/how-to/application/agency/contact/>)

Legal and regulatory guidance

[Financial suitability](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/financial-suitability/)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/financial-suitability/>).

[Privacy Act](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/privacy-act/)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/privacy-act/>).

[Selective Service](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/selective-service/)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/selective-service/>).

[Social security number request](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/social-security-number/)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/social-security-number/>).

[Signature & False statements](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/signature-false-statements/)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/signature-false-statements/>).

[New employee probationary period](https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/probationary-period/)

(<https://www.usajobs.gov/Help/working-in-government/fair-and-transparent/probationary-period/>).