

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS)

Job Description

The Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) invites applications for a Post Doctoral Research Associate to work under the supervision of Dr. Matthew Church (Associate Professor, Division of Biological Sciences/Flathead Lake Biological Station) to complete the research assigned to this temporary position. This is viewed as preparatory for a full-time academic and/or research career. The appointment involves full-time research, and the appointee is expected to publish the results of his or her research or scholarship during the period of the appointment.

The appointee is expected to be both highly independent and collaborative, and s/he will have significant leeway in the scope and design of projects. A key requirement is that the individual have the ability to see intellectually and technically complex projects through to their conclusion, which will involve developing methodological approaches and reviewing, analyzing, and interpreting scientific data and results from the project. Great autonomy and ability to exhibit independent decision-making is expected in designing and implementing strategies for achieving shared research goals.

The appointee will write papers for publication based on research, compose project reports and contribute to grant applications; present at seminars and national meetings; and participate in research group meetings that may include oral and/or written reports.

In addition, the appointee will take a leadership role in field and laboratory research, including regular sample collections; design and implementation of field-based experiments focused on microbial ecology; and laboratory and computer-based analyses.

The University of Montana is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer and has a strong institutional commitment to the principle of diversity in all areas. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of qualified people who would assist the University in demonstrating its essential values of leadership, diversity, engagement and sustainability.

Required Qualifications

- PhD in Ecology, Oceanography, Marine Science, Limnology, or Microbiology
- Demonstrated experience of excellent research capabilities required to carry out innovative and insightful research
- Ability to identify, analyze and summarize relevant literature
- Ability to devise and articulate a research plan with defined goals, and design sound experimental strategies with appropriate controls
- Proven record and ability to produce research to a high publication standard
- Ability to learn and apply new skills appropriate to conduct necessary research
- Knowledge and experience in laboratory environment
- Proven ability to communicate complex ideas and concepts (both orally and in writing) to scientific and non-scientific audiences
- Ability and willingness to undertake collaborative research
- Ability to supervise and mentor undergraduate and graduate students
- Ability to maintain a safe working and learning environment
- Ability to achieve project goals within time and budget

- Strong theoretical and empirical background
- Demonstrated experience and/or knowledge in the following techniques:
 - Aquatic biogeochemistry
 - Field-based collection of microbial samples
 - Design and implementation of field-based ecological experiments
 - Excellent written and oral communication skills,
 - Laboratory and computational experience with methodologies for evaluating microbial diversity and function using genomic, metagenomic, and/or metatranscriptomic analyses of next generation sequence data.

Preferred Qualifications

- Good supervisory skills
- Ability to manage several projects of a highly complex nature simultaneously
- Ability to actively participate in professional development
- Willingness to assist with the daily administration of the laboratory (lab safety, orderliness, supplies, and reporting)
- Working knowledge of relevant UM policies, procedures, and compliance issues
- Demonstrated experience and/or knowledge in some or all of the following techniques:
 - Preparation of environmental samples for subsequent metagenomic and metatranscriptomic sequencing
 - Computational analyses of microbial genomic, metagenomic, and/or metatranscriptomic sequence data

[About the Flathead Lake Biological Station](#)

Located on the eastern shore of one of North America's largest lakes, FLBS is a modern ecological research and education facility adjacent to Glacier National Park in the heart of the Crown of Continent ecoregion. Established in 1899, the mission of the station is to conduct basic and applied ecological research with emphasis on fresh water; provide field ecology courses for advanced undergraduate and graduate students; and provide scientific data, interpretation, and outreach to help resolve environmental problems and inform public policy locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. The FLBS strives especially to advance understanding of complex linkages among atmospheric, terrestrial, aquatic, and human components of watershed ecosystems. This requires a “genes to ecosystems” approach and, therefore, the faculty at FLBS is strongly interdisciplinary. Research foci at FLBS include limnology of Flathead and other large river-lake systems; water quality and supply in changing landscapes; ecological stoichiometry; systems ecology and modeling of large river ecosystems; microbial ecology; nutrient limitation and biogeochemistry; biodiversity conservation; evolutionary biology of animal, plant, and microbial taxa; ecology of invasive species; remote sensing of climate-mediated landscape change; and integration of social and ecological processes in a systems framework. Major FLBS facilities are recently remodeled and fully equipped for on-site research and education. The station has recently come under new leadership under Director James Elser and is in a stage of growth and renewal.

How to Apply

Priority Application Date:

Applications received by February 23, 2017 will be guaranteed consideration. Application review will begin on February 24th and continue until the position is filled.

Please submit the following application materials online to UM Jobs at <http://bit.ly/flbs1696>.

*Please note: only five (5) attachments are allowed per application. Please combine documents accordingly.

- **Letter of Interest** – addressing the stated required skills for the position

- **Detailed resume** listing education and describing work experience
- Names and contact information for **three (3) professional references**

To learn more about the University of Montana, Missoula, and the State of Montana, please visit the links below.

- [University of Montana](#)
- [Flathead Lake Biological Station](#)
 - [FLBS Webcams](#)
- [City of Missoula](#)
 - [Destination Missoula](#)
 - [Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [State of Montana](#)
 - [Visit Montana](#)

Criminal Background Investigation is required prior to Offer of Employment.

In accordance with University policy, finalists for this position will be subject to criminal background investigations.

ADA/EOE/AA/Veteran's Preference

Reasonable accommodations are provided in the hiring process for persons with disabilities. For example, this material is available in alternative format upon request. As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, we encourage applications from minorities, veterans, and women. Qualified candidates may request veterans' or disabilities preference in accordance with state law.

References *References not listed on the application materials may be contacted; notice may be provided to the applicant.

Testing Individual hiring departments at UM-M may elect to administer pre-employment tests, which are relevant to essential job functions.

Employment Eligibility. All New Employees must be eligible and show employment eligibility verification by the first date of employment at UM, as legally required (e.g., Form I-9).