



United States Department of the Interior
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TEMPORARY RECRUITMENT BULLETIN

Announcement Number	2022-23-Columbia-GG-0404-05	Who May Apply	United States Citizens
Position Title	Biological Science Technician Field Assistant	Hiring Agency	INTERIOR, Geological Survey
Open Period	2/28/2022-3/13/2022	# of Positions/ Duty Locations	Multiple Positions USGS, Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC) in Columbia, MO
Series/Grade	GG-0404-05	For More Info	Name: Kristy Stapley Email: kstapley@usgs.gov Phone#: 573-876-1809 Fax#: 573-876-1896
Salary	\$17.31/hour to \$22.50/hour	Promotion Potential	Position does not have any further promotion potential; grade level is set at the grade selected.

Duration of Appointment: This is a temporary excepted service position not-to-exceed 1 year but may be extended up to a maximum of 2 years without further competition. Employment may not exceed 180 working days in a service year. All qualified applicants, with or without Federal status may apply and be considered. Appointment to this position, however, will not convey permanent status in the Federal service.

The work of this position will not exceed 1039 hours of work in a service year.

Work Schedule: Full-Time during summer

Travel Required: Overnight travel of 5-7 nights per month may be required.

Relocation: Relocation expenses will not be paid.

What General Information Do I Need To Know About This Position?

Salary (Hourly): \$17.31/hour (Step 01) to \$22.50/hour (Step 10)

NOTE: First time hires to the Federal Government are typically hired at the Step 01.

Key Requirements

--Applicants must be U.S. Citizens.

- Suitable for Federal employment, as determined by background investigation.
- A valid state driver's license and safe driving record are required.
- Selectee subject to successful completion of a pre-employment medical exam.
- Housing will not be provided.
- More requirements are listed under Qualifications and Other Information.

Major Duties

As a Biological Science Technician - Field Assistant with the U.S. Geological Survey, some of your specific duties will include:

- Assist research scientists in using acoustic telemetry to track fine scale movements of Invasive Carp
- Participate in fish surgeries, collect longitudinal data, and assist researchers in developing artificial intelligence models aimed at improving abundance modeling
- Operate a large range of field gear including electrofishing boats, backpack shockers, seines, mini fyke nets, hoop nets, trammel nets, and many other common and not so common gears for capturing fish

Physical Demands: Work is physically demanding and includes walking, bending, climbing, and lifting of equipment up to 100 pounds when in the field, sometimes during adverse conditions.

Work Environment: The work is performed in a laboratory or field environment. Field work involves moderate or sometimes extreme exposure to the discomforts of rain, cold/hot weather, and rapidly running or icy streams and rivers. Special safety precautions are required in many cases, and the employee may typically wear life jackets, special safety boots, waders, and special handling gear. If selected, you will be required to complete a pre-employment physical.

Are There Any Special Requirements For This Position?

--If selected you may be asked to provide information regarding your COVID-19 vaccination status for the purposes of implementing workplace safety protocols, such as those related to masking, physical distancing, testing, travel, and quarantine.

--A background investigation will be required for this position. Continued employment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

--Applicants for this position must meet the following requirements: (1) possession of a valid State driver's license, and (2) possess a safe driving record. If selected, you will be required to provide proof of a valid State License and a copy of your driving record.

--The position requires successful completion of a pre-employment medical examination at Federal expense.

Basis of Rating

Applicants will not be rated or ranked. All applicants that meet the basic eligibility and qualification

requirements of the position will be referred to the selecting official in preference eligible order.

Qualifications:

Applicants must meet one of the following to qualify for the GS-5 level:

One year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-04 level in the Federal service that is in or related to the duties of this position. Specialized experience may include work as a technician or aid in a research activity or control program work, nursery work that required the growing and maintenance of plants in a controlled environment, or work comparable to that with a large dairy farm where production records, animal environment, and sanitary conditions were kept in accordance with modern dairy practice if it equipped the applicant with the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform successfully the duties of this position. Farming experience that was not performed in a controlled environment, or experience as a laborer who was not responsible for planning and scheduling his/her own work, but only performed assigned tasks, would not qualify as specialized experience.

Examples of GS-4 level work assignments include: 1) recording instrument readings; 2) collecting a specified amount, quantity, and type of samples; 3) taking measurements; 4) operating basic equipment when performing standardized tests; 5) assisting higher level technicians with the operation of sophisticated equipment; 6) assisting higher level technicians in capturing, tagging, collaring and banding animals or fish. For examples 1-6, a designated authority made continuing assignments by initially indicating such criteria as the amount of work expected, a general explanation of what is to be done, advice on the location of reference material or samples, and the nature of the limits applicable to the assignments. Recurring assignments were carried out independently, within established procedures and with minimal instruction. New, difficult or unusual work assignments were given with specific instructions.

***OR applicants may substitute successful completion of a full four year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree (a) with major study in an appropriate field of science (i.e., biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics) or (b) that included at least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, in any combination of courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics. At least 6 semester hours, or the equivalent, must have been directly related to the position to be filled. The successful completion of a full course of study of at least 12 months in a school for clinical laboratory technicians may be substituted for the 1 year of specialized experience required at the GS-5 level for positions involving microbiology and biochemistry technician work.*

***OR a combination of successfully completed post-high school education and specialized experience may be used to meet the qualification requirements for GS-5. Only progressive education in excess of the first 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours (i.e., beyond the first two years) of a course of study leading to a bachelor's degree is creditable toward meeting the specialized experience requirement, assuming the education includes the appropriate number of directly related semester hours, or the equivalent, in any combination of courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics.*

Grade Level	Field Survey Party Experience		Sub-professional Experience		College Work Related to Field of Employment
GG-01	None required	OR	None required	OR	None required
GG-02	None required	OR	None required	OR	None Required
GG-03	3 months	OR	1 year	OR	6 months
GG-04	6 months	OR	2 years	OR	1 year
GG-05	9 months	OR	3 years	OR	3 years college study (equivalent 90 semester/135 quarter hours) plus 3 months of lab or field work experience*
GG-06	1 year, 9 months	OR	4 years	OR	4 years college study (equivalent 120 semester hours/180 quarter hours) plus 3 months of lab or field work experience*
GG-07	2 years, 9 months	OR	5 years	OR	5 years college study (with 18 hours of graduate level course work or equivalent) plus 3 months of lab or field work experience*
*Satisfactory completion of a field course of study may be substituted for the 3 months of field and/or laboratory experience.					

Definitions of Experience:

Field Survey Party – Experience with a field survey party includes activity associated with making and recording geologic, hydrologic, biologic, or topographic field observations; collecting geologic, biological, or water samples for laboratory analysis; applying accepted data collection techniques and methods in the performance of field work in support of scientific investigations; and using a variety of surveying instruments and electronic or mechanical instrumentation in the making and recording of field measurements and observations designed to collect data for physical/ biological science investigations. Only time actually spent in the field can be credited when qualifying individuals under the field party experience option.

Sub-professional Experience – Sub-professional experience is defined as technical work performed in support of field or laboratory investigations relating to the biological sciences, physical sciences, or closely related disciplines which provided basic knowledge or skills in gathering, recording, and assembling scientific or engineering data; using scientific instruments to measure angles, degrees, weights, strengths, intensities, etc.; setting up and operating test apparatus, and manipulating quantitative data. Experience may include assisting professional employees with such duties as calibrating and operating measuring instruments mixing solutions, making chemical analyses, setting up and operating test apparatus, and compiling and processing scientific data. Experience as a laboratory mechanic or in a trade or craft may be credited as experience when the work was performed in close association with physical or biological scientists or other technical personnel and provided a good working knowledge of appropriate scientific principles, methods, and techniques.

Professional Experience – Professional work experience in the physical and biological sciences may be credited in lieu of or in conjunction with sub-professional experience as defined above.

Please note that if qualifying based on education; unofficial transcripts **MUST** be submitted as part of the application in order to receive consideration.

You must meet all qualification and eligibility requirements for the position by the closing date of the

announcement.

Required Documents

If you are claiming veterans' preference you must submit a copy of your DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, by the closing date of this announcement. If you are currently on active military duty, you must provide documentation (e.g., campaign document, award citation, etc.), that verifies entitlement to veterans preference and that your character of military service is honorable. If you are claiming 10-point veterans' preference, in addition to the DD-214, you must submit documentation that supports your claim (e.g., an official statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs or from a branch of the Armed Forces certifying the existence of a service-connected disability; or receipt of a Purple Heart). **If you fail to submit any of the required documentation, you will not be granted veterans preference.** Additional information on veterans' preference can be found in the [VetGuide](#).

--If this position requires specific educational course work to qualify, or if you are qualifying based in whole or part on education, you are required to provide all unofficial transcripts (undergraduate and graduate) course work, which includes semester hours earned and grade received, by the closing date of this announcement or you will be disqualified from further consideration.

--Cover Letter

-- Resume (You must show how your skills and experiences meet the qualification and requirements listed in the recruitment bulletin to be considered for the position.

--Required documents may be faxed or emailed to the point of contact listed above.

Education

If this position requires specific educational course work to qualify, or you are qualifying based in whole or part on education, you are required to provide all unofficial transcripts (undergraduate, graduate, etc.) or list of course work, which includes semester hours earned and grade received, by the closing date of this announcement or you will be disqualified from further consideration. This proof may be faxed or emailed to the point of contact listed in this bulletin. Please ensure that all documentation is legible.

Education completed in colleges or universities outside the United States may be used to meet the above requirements. You must provide acceptable documentation that the foreign education is comparable to that received in an accredited educational institution in the United States. For more information on how foreign education is evaluated, visit:

<http://www.usgs.gov/ohr/oars/quals/foreign.html>.

How to Apply

Applications for this vacancy must be submitted to the point of contact listed above via email or fax BEFORE midnight **Central** Time on the closing date of this announcement. If you fail to submit a complete application, you will not be considered for this position. Requests for extensions will not be granted.

Benefits

Temporary appointees expected to work at least 130 hours per month for at least 90 days will be eligible to enroll in a [Federal Employee Health Benefits \(FEHB\)](#) plan. Individuals eligible under this rule receive the full government contribution to their premiums regardless of work schedule and will also be eligible to participate in the [Flexible Spending Accounts](#) and [Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program](#). Temporary appointees are not covered by the Federal Employee Retirement System and are ineligible for Federal life, dental, or vision insurance.

Other Information

--Under Executive Order 11935, only United States citizens and nationals (residents of American Samoa and Swains Island) may compete for civil service jobs. Agencies are permitted to hire non-citizens only in very limited circumstances where there are no qualified citizens available for the position.

--USGS employees are subject to Title 43, USC Section 31(a) and may not: (a) have any personal, private, direct or indirect interest in lands or mineral wealth of lands under survey; (b) have any substantial personal, private, direct or indirect interests in any private mining or mineral enterprise doing business with the United States; or (c) execute surveys or examinations for private parties or corporations.

--DOI uses E-Verify to confirm the employment eligibility of all newly hired employees. To learn more about E-Verify, including your rights and responsibilities, please visit www.dhs.gov/E-Verify.

--The application contains information subject to the Privacy Act (P.L. 93-579, 5 USC 552a). The information is used to determine qualifications for employment, and is authorized under Title 5, USC, Section 3302 and 3361.

--The Department of the Interior (DOI) places a high value on diversity of experience and cultural perspectives and encourages applications from all interested eligible candidates. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) are fundamental principles that guide the Department and allow us to successfully achieve our mission.

-- Federal agencies must provide reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities where appropriate. Applicants requiring reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process should contact the hiring agency directly. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

--If you misrepresent your experience or education or provide false or fraudulent information in or with your application, it may be grounds for not hiring you or for firing you after you begin work. Making false or fraudulent statements also may be punishable by fine or imprisonment.

-- If you are a male applicant born after December 31, 1959, you must certify that you have registered with the Selective Service Law.