

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACTS
RFQ-RT-09-00025
Wet Lab Support**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory
Atlantic Ecology Division, Narragansett, RI**

The Atlantic Ecology Division (AED) National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL) of the Office Research and Development (ORD) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Narragansett, RI is seeking one or more individuals, at least 18 years of age who have completed a bachelors' degree program to provide services under a contractual agreement in support of AED's wet laboratory aquarium facility.

The AED/NHEERL is responsible for marine, coastal and estuarine water quality research, including the effects of toxic chemicals on aquatic populations. The student/recent graduate contractor shall assist scientific researchers by participating in the development and application of molecular genetic/genomic tools for marine species, participating in ecological, physiological and toxicological response studies using these organisms; contributing to the development of scientific reports and manuscripts.

The student/recent graduate contractor shall have completed a bachelors' degree program in fisheries sciences, natural resources, environmental or life sciences, biology, ecology, genetics or related degree from an accredited university. The student/recent graduate should be familiar with good laboratory practices, and basic laboratory health and safety procedures in order to provide these services.

The contract period of performance will be for 12 months, and is expected to begin approximately December 15, 2008 and end approximately December 14, 2009, and represents an estimate of up to about 1820 hours of total effort. AED reserves the option to extend the contract for an additional year through December 15, 2010, representing up to 1820 hours of additional effort for the option year. The principal duty station location is 27 Tarzwell Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882. The student/recent graduate may enter the building during business hours (the facility is in continuous operation). The student/recent graduate shall be able to perform moderately strenuous work, including: climbing step ladders and occasional heavy lifting (up to 50 lbs).

The hourly rate of \$ 18.49 is commensurate with the level of education and experience necessary.

Student/recent graduate contractors shall be paid the basic hourly rate only for the number of hours worked and do not receive overtime premium for any hours worked beyond the 40-hour work week. Student/recent graduate contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. The student/recent graduate must be available to work week-end as well as some regular business days, such that animal care is provided every day, whether by the student or others.

The student/recent graduate contractor is considered as an independent contractor; therefore, Federal, State, Local, Social Security, and Medicare taxes shall not be withheld. Student/recent graduate contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes.

Student/recent graduate contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide nor pay for housing, meals, or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station location. If performance of the contract requires overnight travel, the student contractors shall travel under the rules and procedures established for Federal employee travel.

Student/recent graduate contractors shall be required to comply with Federal requirements for Standards of Ethical Conduct and Conflicts of Interest.

Student/recent graduate contractors may be offered, at Government expense, non-mandatory vaccinations, immunizations, treatments, medical examinations, and health and safety training to safeguard their health prior to beginning certain types of work which may expose them to health or safety risks in the environment.

Selected students/recent graduates will receive more information about these issues prior to award of the contract.

U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in this program. Non-U.S. citizens may be eligible to participate, depending on their immigration status and the applicable regulations of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Service (BCIS,) formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service. All non-US citizens must submit, as part of their proposal, evidence of their immigration status that allows them to work in the United States. Students/recent graduates, who are EPA ORD employees, or the spouse or child of an EPA ORD employee, are not eligible to participate.

Interested students/recent graduates shall provide a one or two page resume or statement of qualifications, including a copy of the transcript and documentary evidence from BCIS, if appropriate, including:

- Full legal name
- Mailing address
- Email address (if any)
- Telephone number
- Social Security Number
- Date of Birth
- Place of Birth
- Citizenship, or immigration/visa status (documentary evidence from BCIS)
- Description of recent classes relevant to the SOW
- Experience related to the scientific field (paid or volunteer work and academic)
- Experience in laboratory work (paid or volunteer work or academic)

- Scientific publications with a description of the individual's participation in the publication
- An attached certified copy of the most recent transcript showing listing of courses and overall grade point average (unofficial copies are acceptable, if it is apparent from the transcript copy that it is a copy of an official document and that the college is identified)

The student shall also submit a letter of recommendation from an academic adviser, major professor, or other professional associate very familiar with the applicant's skills and performance. Additionally, interested students/recent graduates shall submit a statement indicating the student/recent graduate accepts the stated wage rate of \$18.49 per hour.

Interested students/recent graduates should submit their resume or statement of qualifications, transcript, and rate proposal to Marsha B. Johnson, Contract Specialist, via email at: Johnson.marsha@epa.gov or via fax to 919-541-4273.

Prior to applying for this position, all interested parties are required to visit the EPA Procurement Home Page at: http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd/ to learn full details of the proposed contract opportunity. Under the section entitled "**Student Services, RFQ-RT-09-00025**", read all of the attached documents. This website should be visited periodically to check the status of this procurement and to see whether or not any changes have been made. If you have any questions on the information contained in this website, please contact the EPA Contract Specialist, Marsha B. Johnson at: Johnson.marsha@epa.gov. Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to Dr. Diane Nacci, the EPA technical mentor for the contracted activities, at nacci.diane@epa.gov or (401) 782-3143.

The Government will make contract award based on the student's course work, training and experience as it relates to the services described in the announcement, grade point average and recommendation. Please check the evaluation factors document on the website given above the specific factors and order of importance.

Students who perform under contract for EPA shall have a checking or savings account at a financial institution that will accept direct deposits of Federal funds for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), and are required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the EPA. **Responses to this Announcement will be accepted through November 28, 2008, 12:00 p.m. ET.**