

**Announcement for Student Services Contracts**  
**RFQ-RT-08-00095**  
**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Office of Research and Development**  
**National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory**  
**Gulf Ecology Division, Gulf Breeze, FL**

The Gulf Ecology Division (Gulf Breeze, FL) of the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory, of the Office of Research and Development (ORD), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is seeking one or more recent graduates with a B.S. or equivalent degree in biology, chemistry, ecology, environmental science, marine biology, zoology, computer science, information technology, mathematics, physics, or related field to provide services under a contractual agreement. The contractor(s) shall assist in understanding the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of coastal wetlands and estuaries, determining ecological condition, evaluating rates and causes of declining systems, and/or predicting future conditions under various alternative water quality scenarios. For more detailed information regarding the Gulf Ecology Division, visit its home page at <http://www.epa.gov/ged/>.

The primary work location is 1 Sabine Island Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561. Work shall be primarily performed in a laboratory, but some field work may be required. Necessary instruction, training, and oversight shall be provided by EPA scientists who shall serve as mentors to the student contractors.

The following contract specialties are available:

**A. Fish Culture Proteomics** - The student contractor will work within a multi-disciplinary research team and will provide technical laboratory support for proteomics research projects characterizing the effects of environmental stressors on aquatic vertebrate and invertebrate species. All necessary instructions, training and oversight will be provided by Dr. Michael Hemmer ([hemmer.michael@epa.gov](mailto:hemmer.michael@epa.gov)) who will serve as the student mentor.

**B. Fish Culture Wet Lab - Fish Culture Wet Lab Support** - The student contractor will work within a multi-disciplinary research team and will provide technical laboratory support for fish, mysid and coral culture, as well as, field support for fish collections. All necessary instructions, training and oversight will be provided by Peggy Harris ([harris.peggy@epa.gov](mailto:harris.peggy@epa.gov)) who will serve as the student mentor.

**C. Interactions of Nanoparticles with Microorganisms.** The student contractor will work within a collaborative, cross Divisional team and conduct laboratory tests to determine the effects of nanoparticles on bacterial cultures and on microbial activities in environmental samples. The preferred student will have experience in using basic microbiological techniques and performing biochemical tests. Necessary instruction, training and oversight will be provided by Dr. Richard Devereux ([devereux.richard@epa.gov](mailto:devereux.richard@epa.gov)) who will serve as the mentor to the student contractor.

**D. Microbial Ecology Assessment of Coastal Wetlands** - The student contractor will assist in developing methods to assess environmental condition of coast wetlands with a focus on microbial ecology and microbial mediated processes. This contract supports the National Coastal Assessment of the Nation's wetlands and the Gulf of Mexico Coast Wetlands- pilot survey. All necessary instructions and training will be provided by Dr. Fred J. Genthner (LINK "mailto:([genthner.fred@epa.gov](mailto:genthner.fred@epa.gov))" [genthner.fred@epa.gov](mailto:genthner.fred@epa.gov)) who will serve as the student mentor.

**E. Coral Response to Multiple Stressors** - The student contractor shall provide technical support for research projects characterizing the effects of environmental stressors on laboratory cultured reef-building corals. All necessary instructions and training will be provided by Mace Barron ([barron.mace@epa.gov](mailto:barron.mace@epa.gov)) who will serve as the student mentor.

**F. Relational Database Development** - The majority of work will be devoted to development of a geospatial relational database that will inform research and management of water quality and hypoxia in both state and federal water of the northern Gulf of Mexico. The preferred student will have training and/or experience in database development/management and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software applications. Necessary instruction,

training, and oversight will be provided by an EPA scientist, Dr. Rick Greene ([greene.rick@epa.gov](mailto:greene.rick@epa.gov)), who will serve as mentor to the student contractor.

**NOTE: Proposals will be individually ranked for each of the specialty areas according to the criteria numbered 1-4 in the attached proposal form.**

The work will begin approximately May 2008 and terminate approximately May 2009; the contract may be continued up to an additional 12 months, depending on availability of funds and performance of the contractor. It is anticipated that the contractor will work an average of 40 hours per week. The majority of the work will be Monday through Friday between the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; some evening, week-end and holiday work should be expected. Work will be performed under a variety of settings including office, library, laboratory, and field. The work is not particularly hazardous or physically strenuous. Field and laboratory health and safety training will be provided.

The hourly rate for this position is \$17.08. Student contractors will be paid the basic hourly rate only for the number of hours actually worked and do not receive an overtime premium for any hours worked beyond the 40-hour week. Student contractors do not accrue leave or holiday benefits and are not paid for any non-work days, regardless of the reason. Federal, State, Local, and Social Security taxes will not be withheld; student contractors are responsible for reporting income to authorities and paying all taxes.

Student contractors are responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. EPA does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. Offerors must be (1) recently graduated (no more than 24 months ago) with a B.S. or equivalent degree or (2) students in good standing who are currently enrolled in a post baccalaureate degree program at a recognized educational institution. 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 (BIS), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

All interested parties are required to visit the EPA Procurement Home Page at [http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp\\_cmd](http://www.epa.gov/oam/rtp_cmd) to learn the full details of this proposed contract opportunity. Under the section entitled "Student Services for Gulf Breeze, **RFQ-RT-08-00095**, read all of the attached documents. This website should be visited periodically to check the status of the announcement and to see if any changes have been made. If you have any questions on the information contained on this website, contact the EPA Contract Specialist, **James E. Wesley, II**. Questions regarding the technical aspects of the contracted duties and responsibilities should be directed to the EPA mentors listed for each task.

The Government will make a contract award based on the student's work experience, knowledge and skills, training and course work as it relates to the services as described in the Announcement. Please check the evaluation factors document on the website given above for the specific factors and the order of importance. Students who perform under contract for EPA may be required to undergo a background check, check of FBI fingerprinting files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Students who perform under contract for EPA must have a checking or savings account at a financial institution that will accept direct deposits of Federal funds for Electronic Funds Transfer. **Responses to this announcement will be accepted through May 9, 2008.**

**INTERESTED PARTIES MUST COMPLETE THE ATTACHED "STUDENT PROPOSAL FOR RFQ-RT-08-00095.** This proposal plus college/university transcripts must be sent to James E. Wesley, II , [wesley.james@epa.gov](mailto:wesley.james@epa.gov), and 919-541-4273 **AND** Lori Barmore, Contract Officer Representative via email [barmore.lori@epa.gov](mailto:barmore.lori@epa.gov) or via fax 850-934-2404 no later than **Noon E.S.T. on May 9, 2008.**

**STUDENT PROPOSAL FOR RFQ-RT-08-00095**

*This proposal must be filled out in full to qualify for a Student Service Contract*

**Title(s) of contract specialty(ies) for which you are applying (in order of preference):**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Full legal name:**

**Mailing address:**

**Telephone #:**

**Email Address:**

**Date of Birth:**

**Place of Birth:**

**Social Security Number:**

**Citizen of the U.S.?**  YES  NO

*(If not a U.S. Citizen, give your immigration/VISA status)*

**Mailing address:**

**Telephone #:**

**Date of most recent college/university degree:** *(to qualify for this contract, your most recent college degree must be within 24 months of the date of this announcement)*

Degree:

Date:

**STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

**1.** Highest **DEGREE** achieved in a field of science (e.g., biology, chemistry, ecology, environmental science, or related field), plus credit hours earned toward an advanced Degree related to the contract specialty(ies) for which you are proposing:

**Degree and Field of Study**

*(e.g., B.S./Aquatic Biologist)*

**GPA**

a)

b)

c)

*[Continue on separate sheet if necessary]*

**Credit Hours in Advanced Degree**  
(e.g., Biology 401)

**Grade**

a)

b)

c)

*[Continue on separate sheet if necessary]*

2. Total **CREDIT HOURS** in all course work directly related to the contract specialty(ies) for which you are proposing:

**Course Title**

(e.g., Organic Chemistry 101) (Clearly identify courses that include Lab training, Organic Chemistry 101 Lab)

**Credit Hours**

**Grade**

*[Continue on separate sheet if necessary]*

**3. MONTHS** of relevant employment or volunteer services: *(give name of employer/service organization plus a brief statement of the work performed)*

**Employer or Service Organization and Brief Description of Work Performed  
Months of Experience**

1.

2.

3.

*[Continue on separate sheet if necessary]*

**4. REFERENCES** *(minimum of two references with name, title, telephone number, and email address)*

**5. ATTACH** College/University **TRANSCRIPTS** that support the summary information you provided above.

**6. Sign the following statement:**

**I will accept \$ 17.08 to perform the work identified in the Scope of Work of this contract announcement.**

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Signature

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Date