



Research Specialist – Water Chemistry Laboratory Technician

Description: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute seeks to hire a motivated, collaborative, and experienced full-time Research Specialist or Senior Research Specialist to work in and assist managing a water quality testing laboratory. This position will be based at the Darrin Freshwater Institute in Bolton Landing, New York. The position will report to the Institute Director, Dr. Kevin Rose, and be a core member of the Darrin Freshwater Institute staff.

The hire will be responsible for running water chemistry analyses for a wide range of variables, following and updating standard operating procedures, helping maintain certifications with the Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP), purchasing, helping mentor students, research staff, guide research planning, and assisting with reports and publications. The position will support freshwater ecology and water chemistry research and monitoring projects based at Lake George and other lakes and waterbodies in New York State and the broader Northeast US region.

Duties and Expectations:

- Perform analytical chemistry analyses using a diverse suite of instrumentation (specific instruments listed in the additional desired qualifications section)
- Conduct sample verification and testing for laboratory accreditation requirements
- Contribute to reports and publications for funders, accreditation programs, and scientific papers
- Conduct data quality assurance and quality control procedures to ensure accurate, verifiable, and trustworthy data are generated
- Develop, refine, and publish methods to advance environmental chemistry analyses, often in conjunction with state-of-the-art autonomous sensors and infrastructure
- Contribute to team-based research and monitoring programs, including guiding research planning and advising and mentoring undergraduate students, graduate students, and research staff
- Assist with purchasing and planning for future laboratory needs

Minimum Qualifications:

- BS, MS degree, or other advanced degree in chemistry, ecology, biology, environmental science, or related field with experience in an analytical environmental chemistry laboratory
- Strong knowledge of environmental chemistry and freshwater chemistry in particular
- Experience working within interdisciplinary teams on ecology and environmental research and monitoring
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent attention to detail
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Products (e.g., Word, Excel)

Desired Qualifications:

- Experience with water chemistry instrumentation methods such as Ion Chromatography, Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy, Flow Injection Analysis, Flow Cytometry, Spectrophotometry, Fluorometry, and Inductively Coupled Plasma-based instruments.
- Familiarity with NELAC/NYS ELAP certification
- Proficient with Laboratory Information Management Systems and statistical programming (e.g., R or Python)

Start date: Preferred by April 30, 2026.

To apply: Please use this link to upload a single pdf containing a cover letter, CV, and contact information for three references:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfi55SFJlh3xXn7Latg40RehSlz71AZNusvNVcDuz5epjHyFQ/viewform>

Application review will begin February 25th, 2026 and continue until the position is filled.

The position comes with a competitive salary and excellent benefits package, including health insurance, paid time off, and retirement benefits. The pay range for Research Specialists is \$18.00 to \$26.55 USD/hour; the pay range for Senior Research Specialists is \$62,354-\$66,000 USD/year. The title (Research Specialist versus Senior Research Specialist) and salary offered will depend on the skills and experience of the applicant. In some instances, applicants with more specialized education and training may qualify for titles with higher compensation.