

PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Graduate Research Fellow

Project Lead/PI: Brianne Callahan, Senior Research Manager

Job title

PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Graduate Research Fellow

Contract type

Start date: ASAP
Contract type: Hourly
Length of contract: through December 2025
Hourly rate: Up to 8 hrs/wk at \$19/hr, with the potential to increase during the Summer

Project description

In April 2024, the EPA finalized a new National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR), setting limits on PFAS concentrations in drinking water. While research into PFAS health risks is ongoing, exposure to some PFAS has been linked to certain cancers and other negative health outcomes. Because of these potentially adverse effects on human health, and because certain PFAS are known to occur in drinking water, the EPA determined that it was obligated to regulate these PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This new rule will require many water systems to adopt new technologies into their existing treatment processes. When PFAS contamination is discovered in drinking water, water systems also become responsible for educating their communities about PFAS exposure risks, sources, and solutions.

The Water Center at Penn is working to advance research on organizational, financial, legal, and PFAS related best practices, which this Graduate Research Fellow position will support. This position will also support the coordination of community and stakeholder engagement, the management of project logistics across this project, and the creation of presentation and report branding and templates.

Job description

The Water Center is an applied research and policy center that partners with communities to find integrated solutions to the challenges facing their built and natural water systems. We use an interdisciplinary approach to our projects. To support our work on PFAS and emerging contaminants, the Water Center is hiring a graduate research fellow to provide project coordination. The position will be a hybrid position (must be based in Philadelphia) and will include regular project team meetings. The position will report to Brianne Callahan, Senior Research Manager at the Water Center.

The ideal candidate will:

- Be a current University of Pennsylvania student.
- Hold a B.S. in environmental studies, civil engineering, environmental policy, governmental policy, environmental economics or other related fields.
- Be pursuing a graduate degree in environmental studies, environmental policy, law, civil engineering, applied engineering, public policy, environmental economics.
- Have experience with graphic design.
- Have experience with meeting and project logistics and coordination.
- Be comfortable using the Google Suite.
- Be able to work independently but also as part of a team.
- Be passionate about water issues.

List of responsibilities

- Coordinate project logistics
- Help plan and coordinate meetings across the Water Center team, Penn partners, and external stakeholders
- Support research team members on a literature review and desktop analysis on relevant PFAS and emerging contaminant topics
- Other duties as assigned

To apply

Submit a cover letter and resume via email to Emma Denison at emmade@sas.upenn.edu with a subject line of “PFAS and Emerging Contaminants Graduate Research Fellow”. Review of applications will occur on a rolling basis; applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Questions can also be sent to the email address above.