

Laboratory Technician Position in Watershed Biogeochemistry
(Analytical Laboratory Technologist)

Job Description: The Watershed Biogeochemistry in the Anthropocene Lab (<http://gersonlab.weebly.com>) at Michigan State University (MSU) is seeking applications for a **laboratory technician position** to start in September 2023. This technician will work on a funded collaborative project between MSU, the University of Colorado Boulder, and the University of California Santa Cruz focused on investigating the interaction of agricultural sulfur runoff and mercury methylation in California vineyards and nearby wetlands.

This position will involve laboratory analyses, consisting primarily of total mercury, methylmercury, and mercury isotope measurements from field samples and laboratory incubation experiments. The technician will be trained on all laboratory techniques and then will be expected to develop independence over time. The technician will also assist with general lab management and the training and mentoring of undergraduate students.

The Gerson Lab studies how anthropogenic activities have altered the coupled cycling of nutrients and contaminants through watersheds, with a focus on mercury. We examine the fate, transport, and transformation of these elements within and between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including their consequences for people and animals. We are dedicated to creating a safe work environment that promotes diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for all. Our lab is also committed to helping all members achieve their professional goals, and we will provide opportunities for intellectual and professional development as part of this position.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in biology, chemistry, ecology, environmental engineering, environmental science, geochemistry, or a related field
- Experience following complex, detailed laboratory protocols
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Strong personal motivation, curiosity, and willingness to learn
- Commitment to a collaborative, inclusive, and supportive work environment

Desired Qualifications:

- At least 6 months experience performing laboratory analyses
- Experience running and troubleshooting Tekran 2600, Tekran 2700, and/or ICP-MS
- Experience with data entry in Microsoft Excel
- Experience with data analysis using Microsoft Excel, R, or equivalent software
- Experience performing quality assurance/quality control (QAQC) on data
- Strong communication and problem-solving skills

Ability to work both independently and with others

Duration: The position will begin in September 2023, though the exact start date is negotiable. This is a ten month to one year position (end date of June to August 2024), with the possibility for extension depending on job performance and funding availability. This is a full-time position and includes full benefits, including health insurance, with an estimated salary of \$42,000-44,000 per year.

Location: Michigan State University is located in East Lansing, Michigan. MSU is a community of ~50,000 undergraduate and graduate students. East Lansing offers an excellent quality of life, with a reasonable cost of living and access to many outdoor activities (hiking, paddling, biking, cross-country skiing). East Lansing is also ~1 hour from Detroit and Ann Arbor, and ~4 hours from Chicago. MSU is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from women, persons of color, veterans, persons with disabilities and other individuals who can contribute to the intellectual diversity and cultural richness at Michigan State University. Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg—Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.

To Apply: Please send the following information to Jacqueline Gerson (geronja@msu.edu) with the subject line “Laboratory Technician 2023.”

1. A 1-2 page cover letter describing your interest in the position and your skillset and relevant previous experiences
2. A resume or CV
3. An unofficial transcript
4. Names, phone numbers, and email addresses for three professional references

Applications will be reviewed as they are received. Priority will be given to applications received by May 10, 2023, though the position will remain open until filled. For additional information, please contact Dr. Jacqueline Gerson (geronja@msu.edu).