



# United States Department of the Interior

## U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Great Lakes Science Center  
1451 Green Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2807  
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January 12, 2023

**Position:** Research Assistant – Invasive Plant Treatment (Student Services Contractor), 1 position available

**Location:** Great Lakes Science Center, Ann Arbor, MI

**Salary:** \$21.42 per hour

**Duration of position:** This is a contract position that will begin as early as June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The intended duration is June 5<sup>th</sup>– October 6<sup>th</sup> with possible extension dependent on funding.

**Project:** Developing new, sustainable control strategies for an invasive wetland grass (*Phragmites australis*)

**Position Description:** The student contractor will serve as a Research Assistant supporting the ongoing development and advancement of new control strategies for non-native *Phragmites*. The contractor will be based at the USGS Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, MI and play a critical support role for USGS research by assisting with a variety of duties that include, but are not limited to:

- Assist with field and greenhouse studies exploring the impact of soil enhancements on microbial communities and *Phragmites* growth and performance
- Assist with greenhouse operations to support the needs of on-going *Phragmites* control studies
- Support testing of treatments that target microbial symbioses interactions and/or genetic pathways to decrease *Phragmites* invasion success
- Collaborate with a multidisciplinary team spanning genetics, microbiology, and ecology
- Assist in creating, updating, and refining various scientific reports and publications
- Assist with other wetland restoration projects, including post-restoration data analysis in partnership with the USFWS and exploring water level impacts on *Phragmites* growth, as necessary

**Education/Experience Requirements:** The successful candidate *must* be currently enrolled as a student or must have received a degree within one year prior to beginning the contract. The ideal candidate will have:

- A Bachelor's degree in biology, ecology, or a related field
- A valid U.S. driver's license
- Field experience
- Experience working with non-native *Phragmites* or other invasive plant species is preferred
- Laboratory experience is preferred
- Strong communication (verbal and written) skills
- Great attention to detail and desire to learn
- High motivation and must feel comfortable working both as a member of a team and independently

**Other Details:** This contract covers a 5-month period with an anticipated start date of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The student contractor cannot receive holiday pay, annual leave, or health care benefits, nor can they receive overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 80 within a two-week period. However, hours in excess of the established 80 per two weeks will be paid at the regular hourly rate. The student will report to the Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, MI, for all duties, unless otherwise specified. Office work will occur in an office equipped with a computer workstation. Moving expenses will not be paid. Lodging will only be provided when in travel status.

The successful candidate will be hired as an independent contractor. This is not a government position, and time does not count toward time-in-service.

**The application deadline is COB January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** To ensure consideration of your application, please send a cover letter, resume or CV, and a list of three professional references to Spenser Widin, [swidin@usgs.gov](mailto:swidin@usgs.gov)