



United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Reston Stable Isotope Laboratory
National Center M.S. 431
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20192

TWO-YEAR POSITION FOR RECENT GRADUATE

Posted April 30, 2026

POSITION CLOSES MAY 19, 2026

1. Types of Services Required:

The applicant is expected to perform or assist with preparation and distribution of isotopic reference materials and with laboratory activities, which may include preparing and analyzing solids, liquids, or gases for hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur isotopic composition using a continuous-flow or dual-inlet isotope-ratio mass spectrometer. Laboratory activities may include preparing samples for analysis using standard operation procedures of the laboratory, cleaning sample apparatus, carrying out experiments under the supervision of upper-level staff to develop new standard operating procedures, and documenting scientific activities in laboratory notebooks.

2. Required expertise/skills:

The applicant should have experience in a stable isotope laboratory analyzing materials containing hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, or sulfur. An applicant should have a MA or MS degree awarded between July 2024 and June 2026 OR a BA or BS degree awarded between July 2024 and June 2026 plus one year of experience. U.S. citizenship is required.

3. Description of Working Conditions:

Work is performed indoors in an air-conditioned laboratory. The work may involve exposure to irritant chemicals. Special safety precautions may be required. The incumbent uses protective clothing and gear such as a laboratory coat, safety glasses, and gloves.

4. Compensation:

Compensation is commensurate with the level of education and experience, as follows:

- For a graduate having an MA or MS degree, compensation is \$ 44.07 per hour
- For a graduate having a BA or BS degree plus one year of experience, compensation is \$36.43 per hour

The position is a contract position, and not a federal government position. The applicant is responsible for all costs of transportation to and from the principal duty station location. The Government does not provide housing, meals or other living expenses while working at the principal duty station. Travel away from the duty station is not expected.

5. Principal Duty Station:

U.S. Geological Survey
John Powell National Center
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

4. Other Information:

This is a 24-month position.

Application Deadline: 5/19/2026

Start Date: As soon as contract can be awarded

Hours/week (approximate): 40 hrs/wk

Send resume and unofficial transcript to:
Dr. Tyler B. Coplen (tbcoplen@usgs.gov)

Resume should consist of a one- or two-page statement of qualifications including: full legal name; mailing address; telephone number; email address; year of birth; education, including descriptions of relevant classes and GPA; work or volunteer experience related to the scientific field; laboratory work experience. Please also include your major.