



Research Assistant *Vantuna Research Group*

POSITION SUMMARY

The Vantuna Research Group (www.oxy.edu/vantuna-research-group) at Occidental College is seeking a Research Assistant to assist with its extensive grant-funded field programs. We research nearshore marine systems throughout the Southern California Bight and work on a variety of studies including MPA research, rocky reef restoration, NPDES monitoring, and long-term monitoring of rocky reefs. This person will integrate with the current staff and student researchers. Our research program conducts fieldwork 2-5 days a week, year-round. Workdays not in the field are spent on campus in the office and laboratory. It is essential that this person be able to accurately interpret and follow established guidelines and procedures, and collect accurate data, as well as assisting in field and office activities. This position requires the employee to travel to off-campus sites, and to work evenings, weekends or on multi-day trips when necessary. This person will integrate with the current staff and student researchers and reports to the Assistant Director.

This is a full-time appointment that includes a competitive benefits package including excellent health, dental, and life insurance benefits, additional extras including use of gym facilities, use and borrowing privileges at the College Library, free parking on campus, and discounted movie and theme park tickets. For a detailed description of benefits, please visit www.oxy.edu/offices-services/human-resources/benefits-information. The initial appointment will be made for one year, with possibility of extension based on the availability of external grant funding. The hourly rate for this position is \$22-25/hour. The start date for this position is negotiable but ideally would be prior to March 14th, 2022.

This position is represented for purposes of collective bargaining by SEIU.

SUMMARY OF DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOALS

- An experienced AAUS scuba diver and familiar with nearshore fauna of the Southern California Bight. Able to accurately identify and count algae, invertebrate and fishes and collect additional data while scuba diving. Must also be able to perform work tasks (e.g., collecting sediment cores, retrieving equipment) while diving.
- Operates and maintains oceanographic/biological equipment, including a CTD water profiler, Niskin water sampler, flowmeters, low-speed saws, microscopes, computers, lab-ware, scales, etc.
- Operates small boats as a dive tender and for data collection.
- Prepares dive gear and other equipment for field days.
- Leads field operations for environmental monitoring projects.
- Makes decisions in both the laboratory and the field with regard to student and personnel safety.
- Assists Research Associates with student training and supervision.
- Assists Director, Assistant Director, Research Scientist, and Research Associates with various projects, information gathering, data entry, QA/QC, and database management.
- Represents the College and program director in a positive manner to contracting organizations, subcontractors, and other College representatives and employees.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree or higher in a relevant scientific field.
- Current AAUS dive certification (**required; no exceptions**) with a minimum of 50 logged scientific dives and 60' depth certification (100' preferred).
- Ability to lift 50 lbs.
- Able to work safely in adverse weather conditions in a variety of demanding environmental conditions and have strong swimming abilities for water-based fieldwork.
- Must provide all dive gear; tanks and survey equipment will be provided and maintained by VRG.
- Experience with Microsoft Office software.
- Ability to deal effectively with occasional crisis situations.
- Able to travel to off-campus sites, and to work evenings, weekends or on multi-day trips when necessary.
- Valid driver's license and the ability to become an authorized designated driver of campus-owned vehicles.
- Full vaccination against COVID-19 including booster shots, when eligible

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience conducting subtidal biological surveys and knowledge of taxonomy and identification of southern California marine algae, invertebrates, and fishes
- Experience in the operation and trailering of small boats (up to 25'), MOTC/MOCC course completion a plus.
- Experience with collecting data using remote sensing methods (e.g., ROVs, AUVs, sonars).
- Trained in CRANE, Kelp Forest Monitoring Program, or PISCO protocol.
- Experience with database management and statistical analysis.
- Nitrox certification.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications **must** include a CV, a cover letter describing research experience and interests, and contact information for three references. All applications should be sent to vrg@oxy.edu as a PDF with the subject line indicating "Research Assistant". Review of applications will begin **March 1, 2022** and will continue until the position is filled. Any inquiries regarding the position should be sent to vrg@oxy.edu.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Occidental is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not unlawfully discriminate against employees or applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, breastfeeding or related medical condition, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic characteristic or information, military and veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by state or federal law. Occidental is strongly committed to increasing the diversity of the campus community and the curriculum, and to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and just environment within which students, staff, administrators, and faculty thrive. Candidates who can contribute to this goal through their work are encouraged to identify their strengths and experiences in this area. Individuals advancing the College's strategic equity and justice goals and those from groups that are underrepresented in the field are particularly encouraged to apply.

All qualified applicants will be considered for employment, including those with criminal histories, in a manner consistent with the requirements of applicable state and local laws, including the City of Los Angeles' Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.

Occidental College is committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodations to applicants with qualifying disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation because of a disability for any part of the application or employment process, please contact Human Resources (hr@oxy.edu).

As a condition of hire for a staff position and for appointment to a faculty position, Occidental College requires that all candidates who have received a conditional offer of employment complete an application form (if they have not already done so) and consent to a background check. Satisfactory completion of a background check, along with pre-employment verifications and references are required as a condition of employment, but only as permitted by federal, state, and local law, including the City of Los Angeles Fair Chance Initiative for Hiring Ordinance.