Smithsonian Institution

Office of Human Resources

Vacancy Announcement

DELEGATED EXAMINING RECRUITMENT BULLETIN

OPENING DATE: December 14, 2006
CLOSING DATE: January 16, 2007

POSITION TITLE/ SERIES AND GRADE
Physical Scientist (Conservation) GS-1301-9
or
Biologist, GS-401-9
or
Archaeologist GS-193-9
or
Anthropologist GS-190-9

Salary: $44,856 – $70,558 per year
Promotion Potential to GS-11

Multiple Vacancies

THIS IS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY POSITION. THE PERSON SELECTED FOR THIS POSITION WILL BE APPOINTED AS ONE OF THE ABOVE.

DUTY LOCATION: Suitland, MD

AREA OF CONSIDERATION: This Announcement is Open to the General Public. The Smithsonian provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for the application/hiring process, please call (202) 275-1102 (voice) or (202) 275-1110 (TTY).

DUTIES: This position is located at the Smithsonian’s Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) of the Smithsonian Institution (SI). MCI is located at the Museum Support Center in Suitland, MD. The position will entail the use of various chemical techniques in the analysis of samples relating to the care, preservation, and characterization of art, archaeological, and other museum objects. These analyses will be based on the microchemical approaches with emphasis on nondestructive, spectrographic, and/or electron and x-ray analytical techniques. The larger part of these analyses will require the use of instrumental techniques, with a general knowledge of computers. The incumbent provides expertise and services in the examination and analysis of museum objects through a variety of spectrographic, electron beam, and x-ray techniques, with an emphasis on two or more of the following, inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) with laser ablation (LA), x-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy-energy dispersive spectroscopy-wavelength dispersive spectroscopy (SEM-EDS-WDS), and x-ray florescence (XRF). The incumbent performs basic analytical chemistry on an as-needed basis.
QUALIFICATIONS: BASIC REQUIREMENTS: For Physical Scientist, GS-1301, applicants must have a degree in physical science, engineering, or mathematics that included 24 semester hours in physical science and/or related engineering science such as mechanics, dynamics, properties of materials, and electronics. OR (B) A combination of education and experience - coursework equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education. For Biologist, GS-401, (A) Degree in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resources management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position OR (B) Combination of education and experience – Courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education. For Archaeologist, GS-193, (A) 1. Degree: that included 3 semester hours each in the following course areas: History of archaeology, Archeology of a major geographical area such as North America or Africa, regional archeology. Archeological cultures, or sites in a specific part or portion of a major geographical area to acquire or develop a foundation for regional specialization for professional development. Theory and methods of archeology. Methods include, but are not limited to, typology, classification, sampling, cultural evolution, diffusion, dating, and analytical techniques. Archeological field school, to provide a basic understanding of theoretical and practical approaches to research design implementation, field preservation techniques, and report preparation by participation in actual field work AND Six semester hours of related course work AND Archeological field school. OR 2. Related Curriculum—Degree in anthropology OR B. Combination of education and experience—College-level education or training that provided knowledge and equivalent to that described in A above, plus appropriate technical experience or additional education OR C. Experience—four years of archeological work experience that demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the fundamental principles and theories of professional archeology. For Anthropologist, GS-190, Applicants must have successfully completed a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor’s or higher degree that included or was supplemented by 24 semester hours in anthropology, history, biology, physical science, geology, human geography, or other closely related fields that primarily concern human adaptation to the environment or evolutionary development. IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE BASIC REQUIREMENTS above, applicants must posses at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level. Specialist experience is experience which is directly related to the position to be filled and which has equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position. SUBSTITUTION OF EDUCATION FOR EXPERIENCE: Two years of progressively higher level graduate education leading to a master’s degree or equivalent degree, OR one year of specialized experience equivalent to least at GS-7 level. For additional information, please go to the Office of Personnel Management’s Qualification Standards Handbook for General Schedule Positions for “Physical Sciences” Positions. These standards may be viewed at the following address on the web at http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/sec-iii/a/1300-NDX.HTM

Applicants, who wish to qualify based on education completed outside the United States, must be deemed equivalent to higher education programs of U.S. institutions by an organization that specializes in the interpretation of foreign educational credentials. This documentation is the responsibility of the applicant and should be included as part of your application package.

NOTE: The Smithsonian does not recognize academic degrees from schools that are not accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the Department of Education. Any applicant falsely claiming an academic degree from an accredited school will be subject to actions ranging from disqualification from federal employment to removal from federal service.

In addition to the qualifications described above, applicants will be further evaluated by Selective and Quality Ranking Factors. Applicants are strongly encouraged to specifically address the factors described below.

Selective Factors: (Applicants must meet all of these mandatory requirements in order to be considered qualified to compete for a position.)

1. Knowledge and understanding of the principles of one of the following techniques: inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), X-ray fluorescence (XFR), X-ray diffraction (XRD), or scanning electron microscopy-energy dispersive spectroscopy-wavelength dispersive spectroscopy (SEM-EDS-WDS).

2. Ability to handle and analyze small, complex samples in an analytical laboratory setting.

Quality Ranking Factors: (These factors are not mandatory to be considered for a position, but will be used to determine who are the highest qualified candidates among those who meet the selective factors.)

1. Ability to work with cultural materials or other museum artifacts.
2. Ability, including routine use or operation, maintenance and calibration and interpretation of results, with any of these techniques: ICP-MS, laser Ablation ICP-MS, XRF, SEM-EDS-WDS.

3. Ability to write technical laboratory reports for both scientific and non-scientific audiences.

**NOTE: RELOCATION EXPENSES WILL NOT BE PAID.**

**How to Apply:**

1. The Smithsonian Institution does not require a standard application form, but we need certain information to evaluate your qualifications. You may apply using a resume, the Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612), or any other written application form you choose. See page 3 for further instructions.

2. Clearly describe in your resume or application your work experience, education and/or training as it relates to this vacancy. It is very important that you fully address how your work experience and education/training meet both the specialized experience requirement and the selective factors. This information will be used to determine whether or not you are qualified for this vacancy. Selective factors establish qualifications to be eligible to compete for the position. Quality Ranking Factors are not mandatory but are used to determine who are the highest qualified candidates among those eligible to compete for the position. Therefore, it is to your benefit to provide a full description of your experience, education/training relative to the job requirements of this vacancy.

3. The attached Applicant Survey Form should be completed by all candidates, except Smithsonian Institution employees, and returned with the application. This form is for gathering statistical data and will not be a part of the application.

**Applications must be received by the closing date and may be submitted in the following ways:**

**Mail:** Smithsonian Institution, Office of Human Resources, P.O. Box 50636, Washington, DC 20091.

**Fax:** 202-275-1114

**Hand Deliver or FEDEX:** 750 Ninth Street, N. W. Suite 6100, Washington, DC.

To obtain information on the Federal Hiring Process, hear about other Smithsonian vacancies, request vacancy announcements, or an Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612) call our automated Jobline on (202) 287-3102 (accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week). Or review our vacancies on-line at www.si.edu/ohr or www.usajobs.opm.gov.

For further information please call (202) 275-1004 (voice) or (202) 275-1110 (TTY).