

Title: Research Specialist or Senior Research Specialist

Description: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is seeking to hire a motivated full-time Research Specialist or Senior Research Specialist working on The Jefferson Project at Lake George. The Jefferson Project is a multi-disciplinary collaboration founded as a partnership between RPI, IBM, and the Lake George Association that brings a sophisticated technological approach to studying freshwater ecosystems. A central goal of the Project is to understand the impact of human activity on fresh water and how to mitigate those effects. This full-time position will be based out of RPI's Darrin Freshwater Institute in Bolton Landing, New York, on the shore of Lake George, with occasional responsibilities on campus in Troy, NY. This position will provide multi-disciplinary support to multiple aspects of the Project, including maintaining a network of sensors on and around Lake George, conducting sampling surveys, assisting with research activities, and traveling to other lakes and field sites in the region.

Duties:

- Calibrate, deploy, and maintain environmental sensors as part of a sophisticated sensor network on Lake George and assist with sensor deployments on other lakes
- Monitor data streams and respond to issues quickly
- Conduct field surveys using standard limnological and hydrological field equipment on both lakes and streams
- Assist with laboratory analyses of water samples
- Maintain accurate records and conform to data management standards
- Contribute to data QA/QC and data management efforts
- Assist with research activities such as data analysis, reporting, and manuscript preparation

Education: Bachelor's or Master's degree in ecology, biology, environmental science/engineering, or a related discipline.

Experience/skills desired:

- Experience deploying and using environmental sensors (e.g., water quality sondes, weather stations, vertical profilers, automated samplers, sensor buoys, etc.)
- Experience calibrating and troubleshooting sensors
- Experience conducting field work in lakes and streams
- Programming experience in Python or R preferred
- Experience working with Linux command line interface preferred
- Experience with data analysis, visualization, and common statistical approaches
- Some experience with small electronics/basic wiring and knowledge of basic electrical engineering principles
- Basic water chemistry and/or ecology laboratory experience
- Knowledge of boat safety as well as some operating/trailing experience
- A willingness to troubleshoot and address complex problems in the field and in the lab
- Ability to work outdoors in challenging conditions
- Occasional travel to other lakes as well as meetings and conferences

Start date: Preferred by August 15th, 2026.

To apply: Apply at <https://careers.rpi.edu/en-us/job/495508/energy-environment-and-sustainability-researchers>.

Review of applications will begin July 1, 2026 and will continue until the position is filled.

Questions: Please email Mark Lucius at lucium@rpi.edu with questions. Please see <https://dfwi.rpi.edu/> for more information on the Darrin Freshwater Institute.

The position comes with a competitive salary and excellent benefits package, including health insurance, paid time off, and retirement benefits. The pay range for Research Specialists is \$18.00 to \$26.55 USD/hour; the pay range for Senior Research Specialists is \$62,354-\$66,000 USD/year. The title (Research Specialist versus Senior Research Specialist) and salary offered will depend on the skills and experience of the applicant.