Oak Ridge Science Semester - Fall 2022

- **Program:** ACM Oak Ridge Science Semester
- **Position available:** Visiting Faculty Director
- **Appointment for:** Fall 2022 semester
- **Location:** Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- **Application deadline:** Open until filled

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) seeks a Visiting Faculty Director for its Fall 2022 Oak Ridge Science Semester program.

The Visiting Faculty Director leads a group of 10-15 students in an intensive research experience at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. ACM or Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) faculty from any STEM discipline are eligible to apply.

Oak Ridge Science Semester

The Oak Ridge Science Semester (ORSS) is an intensive research experience for upper-level science students at ACM and GLCA institutions. The program provides the opportunity for students to continue to progress toward their degree while participating in cutting-edge scientific research. Founded and previously administered by Denison University, ORSS is now managed by ACM.

The central activity of ORSS is a 16-week student internship at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Students conduct research, are trained in advanced laboratory techniques, and are matched with a research mentor in an area of mutual interest. Students also enroll in a seminar series administered by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), which includes topics on scientific communication, career development, and graduate school preparation. Students spend 40 hours per week at the lab, including their research internship and interdisciplinary seminar. Additionally, many students enroll in a course taught by the Visiting Faculty Director.

Since the program involves teaching, the Visiting Faculty Director should draw on expertise in their own discipline as well as on their ability to exchange insights with students and specialists in other disciplines. During the opening weeks of the program, ORNL staff also introduce students to the lab’s facilities, research methods, and safe lab practices. As students become oriented, they become increasingly independent in their research, with the support and guidance of their research mentor and the Visiting Faculty Director. By the end of the semester, students produce a project report and present a poster to their program cohort and the ORNL community.

**Responsibilities of the Visiting Faculty Director**
The Visiting Faculty Director is responsible for the overall success and academic quality of the semester and for the safety and well-being of the students during the program. The Visiting Faculty Director reports to the ACM Chief of Staff. The Visiting Faculty Director also works closely with ACM consortial staff and ORNL staff.

Before the program
- Participate in 2021 Faculty Advisory Committee meeting
- Assist ACM staff and faculty advisors with recruiting efforts
- Participate in review of student applications
- Assist with pre-semester communications to applicants and accepted students
- Participate in faculty training and orientation

During the program
- Teach advanced course to program participants at Pellissippi State Community College facilities
- Advise students on site
- Primary administration of student health and safety
- Serve as main student emergency contact
- Maintain residency in Oak Ridge/Knoxville for duration of the program
- Assist with program orientation and symposium
- Offer extracurricular/field trip experiences for students
- Serve as liaison to ORAU staff
- Participate in at least one week of ORAU-led seminar
- Participate in 2022 Faculty Advisory Committee meeting
- Conduct independent research at ORNL (approximately 2/3 of time)

After the program
- Participate in 2023 Faculty Advisory Committee meeting
- Participate in program review, as needed

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Managed by UT-Battelle, Oak Ridge National Laboratory is the largest US Department of Energy science and energy laboratory. ORNL groups together teams of experts to conduct research and deliver transformative solutions to compelling problems in energy and security. The lab has around 4,750 employees, hosts over 3,000 users and visiting scientists per year, and has a budget of $1.4 billion. The Visiting Faculty Director is strongly encouraged to participate in the ORNL community and has the opportunity to establish valuable, long-term relationships with scientists and engineers in more than 100 disciplines.
Compensation

The Visiting Faculty Director receives one-half of their annual base salary for leading the semester (the expense is an equal split between the home campus and ACM). ACM also provides a housing allowance for the Visiting Faculty Director for the duration of the program, as well as an allowance for round-trip travel from their home campus to Oak Ridge and for the shipping of instructional materials. The Visiting Faculty Director is expected to be in residence by mid-August to work with ORNL staff and ACM consortial staff on scheduling and planning. The Visiting Faculty Director can arrange to be in residence in Oak Ridge earlier than required, at their own expense, in order to conduct their own research.

Proposal preparation and advance visits to Oak Ridge

The Visiting Faculty Director for the Oak Ridge Science Semester is chosen through a competitive process on the basis of a written proposal. Applicants preparing proposals should closely examine the ORNL through its website (because of COVID-19, the campus is currently closed to visitors). Past syllabi are available upon request and will be posted on the ACM website in the future.

Applications must include the following:

- A detailed description of the **proposed course topic** and its links to the unique resources of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, including anticipated learning goals and plans for possible assignments. The proposed course topic should provide sufficient focus to encourage productive collaboration but should also cut across different STEM disciplines to encourage a variety of research projects. Topics that have the potential for engaging students broadly with the ORNL’s impressive facilities are most desirable. The Visiting Faculty Director will be required to provide a finalized syllabus upon acceptance.
- Further description, based on past teaching experiences, of how the Visiting Faculty Director plans to meet the specific learning goals of the program.
- A curriculum vitae.
- A letter from the chief academic officer endorsing the application, sent separately, to acm@acm.edu.

The letter of application and supporting materials should be sent, in electronic form, to acm@acm.edu.

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