What is the Visiting Scientist Program?

The Visiting Scientist Program (VSP) at the FBI Laboratory offers college graduates and faculty the opportunity to participate in a research training program at one of the top forensic laboratories in the world.

Program participants perform research in areas of interest unique to law enforcement and national security under the guidance of leading forensic scientists at the FBI's Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research Unit (CFSRU) located in Quantico, Virginia.
VSP participants will:

- Collaborate with FBI research scientists and leading scientists in other government agencies and academia
- Enhance their skills in applied research using cutting edge technologies and state-of-the-art instrumentation
- Acquire a government clearance and experience working in a high-security federal facility
- Co-author publications in scientific journals
- Present their work at national conferences
- Receive a monthly stipend commensurate with their educational level
- Contribute to projects that are vital to law enforcement and national security such as:
  - Anthropology
  - Microbial forensics
  - Automated pattern evidence recognition
  - Decision analysis
  - Toxicology
  - Geographic attribution
  - Forensic chemistry
  - Forensic applications of genetics and bioinformatics
  - Trace evidence analysis
  - Victim recovery

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have:

- U.S. citizenship
- Ability to successfully complete an extensive FBI background investigation
- A degree in an appropriate science (chemistry, geology, and other physical sciences; biology and related disciplines; statistics; or forensic science)
- A degree awarded from an accredited college/university within five years of admission date (or be a faculty member at an accredited U.S. college/university)
- Health insurance coverage (which can be obtained through ORISE)

HOW TO APPLY

The VSP is an FBI-sponsored educational program in partnership with the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) and is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Qualified applicants must apply directly to ORISE. The final selection of participants is made by the CFSRU.

For ORISE application information and materials visit:
http://orise.orau.gov/science-education/internship-scholarships-fellowships/

For additional program information visit:

Where have they gone?

Visiting Scientists typically spend 1 to 4 years in the VSP program.

After completing their VSP appointments, our Visiting Scientists often receive offers from the FBI and other federal agencies.

Data from 2010-2012.