



# Research Associate

A Research Associate performs and documents research trials and projects under the supervision of a principal investigator.



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# career profile

Name: Lillian Peters  
Job Title: Research Associate


Employer: Syngenta

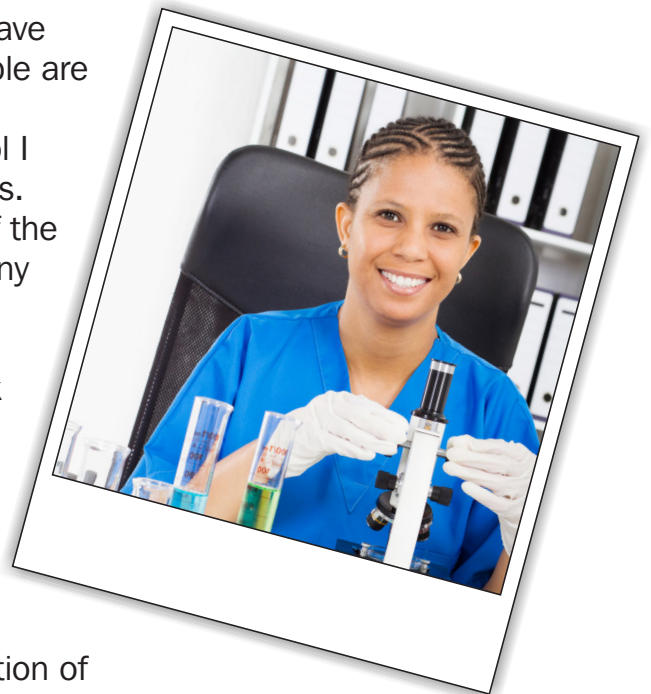
Education: BS, University of California: Davis

 I grew up in Sacramento, a big city. Yet, I have found a career in an agriculture field. Some people are surprised, but I don't think they understand the diversity of the agriculture industry. In high school I enjoyed biology, especially the plant science units. Unfortunately, botany was only a small portion of the course. I enrolled at UC-Davis and declared botany as my major.

 I was hired by Syngenta while finishing work on my bachelor's degree. Syngenta is a large agribusiness with the goal of increasing agricultural crop production in an environmentally sustainable way. I am a research associate. Basically, I plan, organize, and conduct research in a botany laboratory

under the direction of management and the lead researcher. I develop plans for projects and assist a team with the research. I use state-of-the-art technologies and laboratory equipment to complete my work. I manage lab activities and collect data as requested by management. I work within a set budget. I interpret the data and provide management with reports and analysis summaries within deadlines as planned.

 I really enjoy my work. The best part is that since it is something I like, it doesn't feel like work. I am grateful that I was able to get an education and find a well-paying job in a field of my interest.



# Research Associate

## overview



A **research associate** performs and documents research trials and projects under the supervision of a principal investigator.

## suggested high school courses



[agricultural science](#), earth science, biology, botany, chemistry, and mathematics

## experience needed



Participate on campus in labs and research trials when possible. Plan and implement a science-related Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

## degree(s) required



A bachelor's or master's degree in a science related field such as plant breeding, agronomy, crop science, soil science, or biology is preferred.

## potential employers



colleges or universities, crop protection companies, environmental organizations, governmental agencies, research firms, seed companies

## salary range



\$46,781 to \$84,000

## employment outlook and trends



The future job market for research associates is **good**.

## professional organizations



American Society of Plant Biologists [my.aspb.org/](http://my.aspb.org/)  
Crop Science Society of America [www.crops.org/](http://www.crops.org/)



## Want to Learn More?

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