



Research Associate

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



Inspiring Minds to Grow

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career profile

Name: Lillian Peters
Job Title: Research Associate

Employer: Syngenta

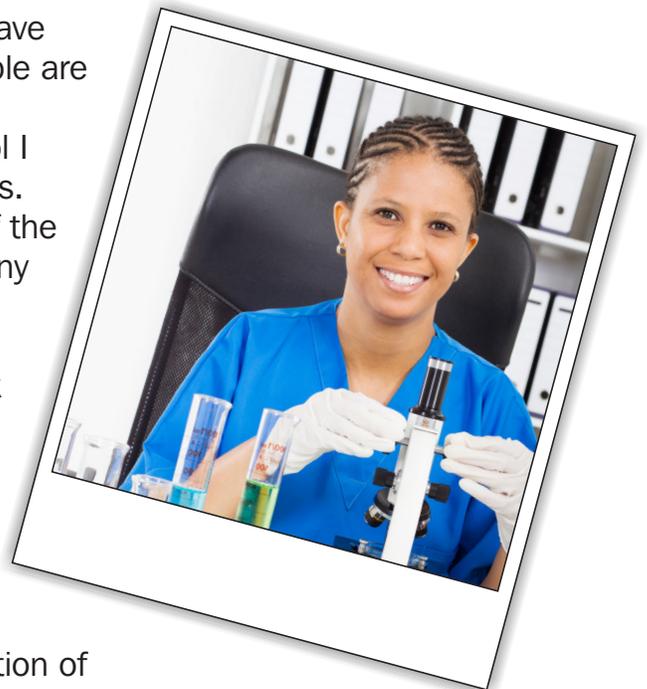
Education: BS, University of California: Davis

 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/
Crop Science Society of America www.crops.org/



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