Seeking postdoctoral and post-master’s applicants for a post-graduate position in Geology at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Billings Montana

Application deadline: April 30, 2022

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) seeks postdoctoral and post-master’s candidates interested in tackling scientific challenges related to subsurface geological resources in central and eastern Montana. The successful candidate will work closely with Bureau geologists on issues related to energy and mineral resources, sedimentary basin characterization, stratigraphic correlation, and subsurface geological modeling.

There is some flexibility in the specific projects that the post-graduate will tackle and we invite applicants from a variety of backgrounds with various tools in their tool belt. Desired skills and interests include geophysical log interpretation, computer-based geologic mapping, basin modeling, geostatistical analyses, sediment geochemistry, field sampling, and GIS.

Some specific priorities that post-grads could assist with include:

- A Department of Energy-sponsored project to evaluate and further investigate the potential for rare earth elements in coal beds and associated sedimentary units.
- An on-going Bureau effort to develop a three-dimensional subsurface geologic model.
- Compilation and analysis of petroleum drilling and production data that summarize the prospective areas in Montana.

The Post-grad will be stationed at the MBMG’s office in downtown Billings, Montana. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work with colleagues from a range of sub-disciplines, including economic geology, petroleum geology, hydrogeology, geologic hazards, GIS specialists and database developers. The position requires occasional travel, including overnight stays. There is the potential for field work in remote and rugged terrain, depending on the interests of the successful candidate.

This opportunity will provide a unique educational and career opportunity for a recent graduate who is interested in applied geosciences and the geologic resources of Montana. This program places a recent master’s or doctoral graduate within the Bureau of Mines and Geology full-time for one year, with the Post-graduate bringing technical skills to benefit analysis of geologic resources while receiving valuable experience in applied research under the guidance of...
professional geologists. These mutually beneficial partnerships will advance specific scientific initiatives at the MBMG and provide valuable training opportunities for recent graduates entering the work force.

Eligibility:
Any student or postgraduate who will have graduated between spring 2021 and summer 2022 with a master’s degree or PhD in geology or a closely related field is eligible to apply. Candidates must have completed all degree requirements before starting the internship.

Salary and expenses:
Salaries are dependent on the Post-graduate’s academic background, with post-Masters graduates earning $47,000 and postdoctoral graduates earning $57,000, with additional benefits.

Application requirements:
Application packages should be sent to Jay Gunderson at JGunderson@mtech.edu at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and should include:

1. A cover letter that describes your background and abilities, your expectations from this experience and how this experience fits with your career goals (2 pages or less).

2. Curriculum vitae with relevant educational, professional and volunteer experience

3. Copies of all official undergraduate and graduate student transcripts

4. Two letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant’s major professor; if no major professor exists, another faculty member at the same institution, familiar with your academic record, may be substituted. References should email letters directly to JGunderson@mtech.edu

5. Up to 3 writing samples, both formal and informal (e.g., journal articles or other technical documents, popular articles, web resources, etc.)

Selection Process:
MBMG staff will identify a short list of candidates for interviews. Interviews will most likely be conducted virtually by a panel of Bureau staff to determine the best fit for the position. It is expected that applicants will possess a strong background in geology, strong analytical skills, an ability to manage projects and work independently, and excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Length of Assignment:
The length of assignment is one year with an anticipated start between June 15, 2022 and August 30, 2022 to accommodate candidate’s schedule. This timeline may be adjusted for academic semester needs or the needs of the candidates.
Timeline:

- April 30, 2022 – Deadline for submission of applications
- May 15, 2022 – Interviews
- June 1, 2022 – Notify applicants of decision

About the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

Established in 1919, the MBMG collects and publishes information on Montana's geology to promote orderly and responsible development of the energy, groundwater, and mineral resources of the State. A non-regulatory state agency, the MBMG provides extensive advisory, technical, and informational services on the State's geologic, mineral, energy, and water resources. The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology is the principal source of earth science information for the citizens of Montana.