

PREP Research Associate

This position is part of the National Institute of Standards (NIST) Professional Research Experience (PREP) program. NIST recognizes that its research staff may wish to collaborate with researchers at academic institutions on specific projects of mutual interest, thus requires that such institutions must be the recipient of a PREP award. The PREP program requires staff from a wide range of backgrounds to work on scientific research in many areas. Employees in this position will perform technical work that underpins the scientific research of the collaboration.

Research Title:

GWU SURA PREP Research Associate for NIST Community Resilience Program

The work will entail:

This work supports efforts of the NIST Community Resilience Program

<https://www.nist.gov/community-resilience> to develop the measurement science needed for concepts of recovery and resilience. In this area, the postdoctoral associate will contribute to the development of publications as well as generalized survey and interview instruments that can be used to improve standardized measurement of impacts and recovery for organizations following disruptions such as natural hazards. Additionally, the postdoc will work on the testing and validation of resilience indicators using county level data for the US.

Ultimately, these validated indicators, standardized data collection instruments, and associated protocols will be used to support future deployments and investigations of the NIST Disaster and Failure Studies Program <https://www.nist.gov/topics/disaster-failure-studies/about-disaster-and-failure-studies-program> while the associated analysis will inform the development of NIST Community Resilience Program guidance and tools to support organizations like schools and hospitals with resilience planning.

Key responsibilities will include but are not limited to:

- development of data collection instruments (e.g., surveys and interview guides)
- support in developing documentation required for approvals (e.g., Institutional Review Board, Office of Management and Budget Paperwork Reduction Act),
- quantitative and qualitative analysis of data collected
- communication of results through reports, other publications, and presentations
- research and publications on related topics including organizational resilience, community recovery, data collection following disasters, and measurement using social science methods

Qualifications

- A Ph.D. in geography, sociology, or a related social science field
- At least 3 years of relevant expertise in research related to disaster recovery, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and hazard impacts
- Experience on interdisciplinary research teams
- Strong oral and written communication skills

- Ability to develop scientific presentations and publications
- US citizens preferred

Privacy Act Statement

Authority: 15 U.S.C. § 278g-1(e)(1) and (e)(3) and 15 U.S.C. § 272(b) and (c)

Purpose: The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) hosts the [Professional Research Experience Program \(PREP\)](#) which is designed to provide valuable laboratory experience and financial assistance to undergraduates, post-bachelor's degree holders, graduate students, master's degree holders, postdocs, and faculty.

PREP is a 5-year cooperative agreement between NIST laboratories and participating PREP Universities to establish a collaborative research relationship between NIST and U.S. institutions of higher education in the following disciplines including (but may not be limited to) biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, engineering, electronics, materials science, mathematics, nanoscale science, neutron science, physical science, physics, and statistics. This collection of information is needed to facilitate administrative functions of the PREP Program.

Routine Uses: NIST will use the information collected to perform the requisite reviews of the applications to determine eligibility, and to meet programmatic requirements. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notices: NIST-1: NIST Associates.

Disclosure: Furnishing this information is voluntary. When you submit the form, you are indicating your voluntary consent for NIST to use of the information you submit for the purpose stated.