M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship:
Idaho State University, USGS Water Science Center at the Idaho National Laboratory

Responsibilities: The prospective graduate student will work with faculty in the Department of Geosciences at Idaho State University and with geoscientists at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Science Center at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Prior and ongoing work by the USGS at the INL seeks to characterize the eastern Snake River Plain aquifer with respect to the migration of radioactive and chemical wastes. To this end, the USGS has drilled deep boreholes within the eastern Snake River Plain to regionally correlate surface and subsurface volcanic and sedimentary rocks to better constrain the subsurface stratigraphy beneath the INL. The prospective MS student would enroll at Idaho State University in the Department of Geosciences and work with faculty within the department in collaboration with the USGS team at the INL. The details of the MS thesis project are flexible, but would fit within the framework of the USGS’s goals to better characterize the subsurface architecture and geohydrology of the eastern Snake River Plain. The prospective student would likely work with subsurface data (including logging of deep boreholes) and apply various analytical techniques (e.g., geochemical analysis, geochronology, petrology, etc.).

Qualifications: B.S. degree in geology or related field; minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0; GRE quantitative, verbal, and writing scores above the 50th percentile; and three excellent letters of recommendation. The prospective student must be able to work in a collaborative environment with ISU and the USGS. For additional information about ISU Geosciences or the USGS Water Science Center, visit https://isu.edu/geosciences/ or https://www.usgs.gov/centers/id-water/science/idaho-national-laboratory-project-office.

Funding and stipend: The project is expected to be fully funded by the USGS. The prospective student would receive a monthly stipend and a tuition and fee scholarship to pursue graduate studies in ISU Geosciences.

To apply: Email a letter of interest and CV/resume (including GPA and GRE scores listed), to: Dr. David Pearson, ISU Geosciences Graduate Program Director: pearson@isu.edu. The full application, which includes official transcripts, three letters of recommendation, official GRE scores, and statements of goals/interest is due by January 15, 2020. The start date would be Fall of 2020. More information about the application process and requirements can be found here: https://isu.edu/geosciences/graduate/m.s.-geology/.