For more than 75 years, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has shaped our world with discoveries in neutron science, high-performance computing, advanced materials, biology and environmental science, nuclear science and isotopes, and national security.

What Our Staff Say about Working at ORNL

“At ORNL I am part of a team that is the best in what they do, and we work in an environment that encourages openness and diversity while placing a high value on research excellence and integrity. The combination of flagship strengths in quantum materials, neutron scattering, and high-performance computing coupled with the direct positive impact our work has on people’s lives and the planet makes work at ORNL equal parts challenging, stimulating, and fulfilling.”

—Clarina dela Cruz, Diffraction Group Leader

“My parents showed me that research can be used to positively impact the world and inspired me to become a scientist. Oak Ridge National Laboratory provided me the opportunity to start my career and have a positive impact on the world through my work on a large-scale science project that aims to improve nuclear fuel designs to increase the efficiency of power generation and reduce the risk and severity of accidents at nuclear power plants.”

—Peter Mouche, Postdoctoral Researcher

“When I first arrived at ORNL, I was fascinated by the lab’s world-class facilities and breadth of research. As time went on I realized that nuclear processes I’d only read about were a vital part of the laboratory’s fabric, and I began to meet scientists who had written the very journal articles and books I’d studied for many years. Rather than trying to glean information through reading, I simply walk across campus and meet with the world’s foremost experts. The best part of working at ORNL—even as a late career scientist—is that I get to learn something new and fascinating virtually every day.”

—Paula Cable-Dunlap, Collection Science and Engineering Group Leader

Apply at jobs.ornl.gov
Life at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

ORNL was established in 1943 during the Manhattan Project and for over 75 years has been a leader in science and energy research. Today, as America’s largest science and energy laboratory, ORNL is a thriving multiprogram research campus with world-leading facilities and talented employees from over 60 countries who are innovators in their fields.

Our staff have innumerable opportunities to collaborate on cutting-edge scientific, operational, engineering, and support activities. In addition, ORNL offers professional development training at no cost to employees, supports numerous employee resource groups that promote diversity and inclusion efforts across the Laboratory, and provides networking opportunities.

Ideal Location

Located near the Great Smoky Mountains, ORNL’s campus is just 1 hour away from the national park. Within a day’s drive of all major cities on the East Coast, ORNL provides the best of both worlds: proximity to the great outdoors and growing urban centers with diverse cultural attractions. The city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, has 150 miles of shoreline for water recreation, rowing, and boating, and nearby Knoxville, Tennessee, is home to the thriving research campus of the University of Tennessee and a historic downtown known for its dining, theaters, shopping, and cultural and music festivals.

In addition, East Tennessee is affordable, with a cost of living over 17% lower* than the national average and no state income tax. It is one of the safest areas in the United States and has excellent school systems, including the Oak Ridge School District, one of two districts in the world that are K-12 STEM certified.

Total Rewards and Amenities

Combined with competitive salaries, ORNL offers employees and their families a comprehensive and valuable benefits program. ORNL also has numerous on-site amenities that make life more convenient.

- 401(k) Retirement Plan
- Employee Discounts
- Bank
- Educational Assistance
- On-Site General Medical Clinic
- Employee Assistance Program
- Flexible Working Hours
- Coffee Shop
- Exercise Classes
- Generous Vacation and Holidays
- Life Insurance
- Cafeteria
- Gym
- Pension Plan
- Medical Plan (Dental, Vision, and Health Savings Accounts)
- Educational Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Employee Discounts
- Life Insurance
- Walking Trails
- Parental Leave
- Medical Plan (Dental, Vision, and Health Savings Accounts)
- Relocation Assistance
- Legal Insurance with Identity Theft Protection
- Employee Assistance Program
- Pension Plan
- On-Site General Medical Clinic
- Wellness Programs
- 401(k) Retirement Plan
- Bank

ORNL is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified candidates, including individuals with disabilities and protected veterans, are encouraged to apply. ORNL is an E-Verify employer.