The Virginia Department of Forensic Science is seeking a qualified applicant to perform forensic examinations at our Eastern Laboratory in Norfolk. Duties of this position include identification of blood and other body fluids, DNA PCR-based STR fluorescence imaging analysis and comparisons of genetic material on criminal evidence using state-of-the-art analytical methodologies, techniques, and instrumentation. Prepares reports of findings for use by the criminal justice system and testifies in court as an expert witness. Communicates with medical and legal officials on testing procedures, results and conclusions. Instructs law enforcement officials on the handling of evidence. Requires some travel.

Minimum qualifications: B.A./B.S. degree in biology, chemistry, forensic science, or related scientific field. College courses (graduate or undergraduate level) totaling a minimum of nine cumulative semester hours covering the subject areas of genetics, biochemistry, and molecular biology (molecular genetics or recombinant DNA technology), as well as course work and/or training in statistics and population genetics as applied to forensic DNA analysis. Six months experience with DNA STR analysis in a private, state or federal forensic laboratory. Documented training from an accredited forensic laboratory in forensic DNA PCR-based STR analysis on the capillary electrophoresis platform in a program that includes methods, procedures, equipment, and materials used for forensic DNA analysis and their applications and limitations. Forensic laboratory casework experience in DNA isolations and PCR testing and other molecular biology techniques, including preparation of case-specific reports containing results and conclusions. Forensic laboratory casework experience including case approach, performing body fluid identification/detection testing, and sample selection for DNA analysis. Knowledge of laboratory safety and QA/QC procedures. Ability to distinguish color differences, maintain accurate records, analyze and interpret data, manage multiple tasks efficiently, establish work priorities, and develop sound conclusions from analyses. Selected candidate must be eligible to possess a valid driver's license or have other means of reliable transportation.

Preferred qualifications: Experience testifying as an expert witness in federal and/or state courts. Related advanced degree. Experience with CODIS software. Forensic related teaching/training experience. Experience with forensic gel-based STR analysis using the FMBIO platform.

If a fully qualified Forensic Scientist candidate cannot be found, the position will be filled as a Forensic Scientist Trainee at a salary of $43,600. The training will last approximately 9 to 12 months, dependent upon the qualifications of the successful candidate. The Trainee must meet the degree and course qualifications listed above. Preferred qualifications for the Trainee include college internship and/or paid work experience in a forensic DNA laboratory. College courses in forensic science. Paid work experience with DNA STR analysis on forensic evidence samples.

Selected candidates must provide a DNA sample via a buccal swab (saliva sample), be fingerprinted, drug tested and pass a security background check.
Applicants must apply electronically using the State of Virginia’s Recruitment Management System (RMS) by 5:00 pm May 21, 2015. The RMS may be accessed by using this link: https://virginiajobs.peopleadmin.com Contact Julie Smith at (804) 588-4053 for assistance.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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