



INTERESTED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH?
CONSIDERING A GAP YEAR BEFORE GRAD SCHOOL?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITIES

[The Merchant Lab](#) in the University of California
Berkeley's [Institute for Quantitative Biosciences](#) is
hiring two laboratory research technicians

Position 1: Symbiotic interactions between algae and bacteria.

Use laboratory culture-based systems to study interactions between algae and bacteria from soil. Explore how such interactions impact photosynthesis, nutrient cycling, and evolution.

Supervised by Dr. Usha Lingappa.

Position 2: Gene targeting for reverse genetics and synthetic biology in algae. Help develop an oleaginous (oily) green alga as a novel platform for reverse genetics and synthetic biology. Use gene targeting and transgene expression to investigate trace metal metabolism, enhance photosynthesis, and for production of designer lipids for bioenergy or nutrition. Supervised by Dr. Jeffrey Moseley.

Start dates flexible, summer or fall 2024
Full-time or part-time employment possible

ALGAE

PHOTOSYNTHESIS

TRACE METAL
BIOCHEMISTRY

SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

GENOMICS

SOIL ECOLOGY



Transmission electron micrograph of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, one of our favorite unicellular algae

Qualifications:

- BS/BA degree by summer 2024 with coursework in biology and chemistry.
- Previous research experience is a plus but not required.
- **We are seeking respectful, compassionate teammates with enthusiasm for learning, curiosity about the natural world, and commitment to scientific integrity.**

To apply:

Contact sabeeha@berkeley.edu with:

- A cover letter (briefly describe your interests, educational path, and past scientific experiences, and indicate which position preferred)
- Your CV/resume
- Contact info for two references