

ASSISTANT OR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN ANALYTICAL GEOCHEMISTRY

Department of Earth, Environmental & Planetary Sciences

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF
EARTH, ENVIRONMENTAL &
PLANETARY SCIENCES

The Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) invites applications for a faculty position in Analytical Geochemistry. The position is for a full-time, tenure-line appointment at the Assistant or Associate Professor level that will preferably begin on 1 August 2026.

The selected candidate will develop a highly published and externally funded research program in analytical geochemistry, including isotopes and trace elements, and that includes supervision of undergraduate and graduate students, and laboratory technical staff. The candidate will provide primary oversight of a newly established ICP-MS laboratory facility, which includes new multi-collector and quadrupole ICP-MS instruments (ThermoFisher Neoma and iCAP TQ) and a laser ablation system (ESI NWR193) housed in the Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences. The candidate is additionally expected to perform rank-appropriate departmental and university service and teach introductory courses as well as undergraduate courses and graduate courses in the candidate's specialization. We seek to hire a geoscientist whose expertise complements existing strengths of the Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences, including planetary geoscience, cosmochemistry, igneous petrology, structural geology, economic geology, earth history, environmental science, and hydrology.

The University is beginning a next-level initiative aimed both at substantially elevating the University's national reputation for impactful research, scholarship, and creative activity and at assembling a roster of faculty committed to delivering one of the nation's best educational experiences for undergraduate and graduate students.

Knoxville is in the foothills of the Smoky and Blue Ridge mountains, with outstanding natural teaching laboratories and recreation destinations. In addition to mountains, East Tennessee has abundant inland waterways and pristine state and national parks. Knoxville is a thriving city filled with indoor and outdoor entertainment venues, restaurants, shops, and cultural offerings. The city has a blend of convenient urban and rural living settings.

Qualifications: Required: Applicants must hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent) degree in geoscience or a related discipline by the time of appointment. The successful candidate must have a record of publications in geochemistry, the potential for excellence in teaching as established by a record of formal or informal teaching and/or outreach efforts, and the capability to run and maintain multi-collector and quadrupole ICP-MS instruments, a laser-ablation system, and a laboratory that generates precise geochemical and isotopic data. **Preferred:** Candidates should demonstrate a record of achievement or the potential for excellence commensurate for the rank to which they are applying (assistant vs. associate). Post-Ph.D. research experience is beneficial. Research themes centered on isotopic geochemistry and/or analytical geochemistry (mass spectrometry) are desired. Achievement will be assessed according to publication productivity, presentations, and success generating competitive support (e.g., grants, fellowships, contracts). Excellence in teaching will be demonstrated through a record of prior formal or informal teaching and outreach. Successful mentoring of students, teaching experience as an instructor of record, and participation in service roles will be beneficial. UTK is a land-grant university that values engaged forms of research/scholarship/creative activity, teaching, and service. Preference will be given to candidates with experience operating the established ICP-MS instruments and/or managing a geochemistry analytical facility.

Application Instructions: To apply, please submit: (1) cover letter articulating the applicant's interest in and qualifications for this position, (2) full curriculum vitae, (3) no more than two-page statement that describes research experience, interests, and plans, (4) no more than two-page statement that describes teaching experience, interests, and plans, and (5) names and contact information for at least three professional references via <https://apply.interfolio.com/180318>. In addition to addressing qualifications for the position, candidates may describe how they would help promote students' access to and engagement in their teaching and research/scholarship/creative activities. Formal review of Applications will begin on March 2, 2026 and remain open until filled. Questions about the position should be directed to Dr. Molly McCanta (mmccanta@utk.edu).