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**Job opening:** PhD student, Dr. Ellen Lauchnor's lab, Montana State University

The Lauchnor Lab at Montana State University is seeking a motivated Ph.D. student to work on an NSF-funded research project aiming to characterize methane cycling biofilms in extreme environments, to start as soon as possible. The student will collaborate with an interdisciplinary team investigating environmental biofilm communities from Yellowstone National Park and other field sites, in addition to engineered biofilms in the laboratory. Our research techniques include measurement of chemical gradients and microenvironments in biofilms using microelectrodes, reactive transport biofilm modeling and a wealth of biological and chemical analysis and imaging tools, including molecular methods, confocal microscopy, RAMAN confocal and electron microscopy. Interested candidates can learn more about Dr. Lauchnor and her research interests at:

[http://www.montana.edu/ce/instructors\\_professors/faculty/LauchnorEllen.html](http://www.montana.edu/ce/instructors_professors/faculty/LauchnorEllen.html)

The student will collaborate with students and faculty at the Center for Biofilm Engineering at MSU. The CBE offers an ideal setting for the interdisciplinary, collaborative research that is the basis for its worldwide reputation in the field of biofilms. State-of-the-art instruments and equipment are available for use by all CBE faculty, staff, and students.

[www.biofilm.montana.edu](http://www.biofilm.montana.edu)

The ideal candidate will have at least a B.S. degree in a relevant engineering or science field and excellent verbal and writing communication skills. Research experience is preferred.

Interested candidates can apply by sending the following materials to Dr. Ellen Lauchnor at [ellen.lauchnor@montana.edu](mailto:ellen.lauchnor@montana.edu):

- 1) a cover letter stating research experience and career goals;
- 2) a CV or resume;
- 3) contact information for three references.

MSU is in Bozeman, Montana, 1.5 hours from Yellowstone National Park and 6.5 hours from Salt Lake City. Bozeman is home to a multitude of world-class outdoor opportunities including mountain biking, skiing, fly-fishing and hiking, all within an hour's drive of downtown. With a population around 50,000, Bozeman is an ideal mountain town averaging 300 days of sunshine per year.