

**PhD Graduate Research Assistant
Villanova University**

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| Job Title | PhD Graduate Research Assistant |
| Department | Civil & Environmental Engineering |
| Institution | Villanova University Villanova, Pennsylvania |
| Date Posted | Aug. 12, 2025 |
| Application Deadline | Open until filled |
| Position Start Date | Available immediately |
| Job Categories | Graduate Student |
| Academic Field(s) | Geotechnical Civil Engineering |
| Apply By Email | kristin.sample-lord@villanova.edu |
| Job Description | |

PhD Position:

A PhD graduate research assistant (GRA) position in geoenvironmental engineering is available at Villanova University. The expected start date for the PhD position is January 2026. The candidate will assist with research focused on coupled phenomena in clay and resilience of engineered containment barriers. The GRA position includes tuition coverage and a monthly stipend. This project and position are part of a community of collaborative researchers working within the Villanova Center for Resilient Water Systems (VCRWS).

Requirements:

This GRA position is for a full-time student pursuing a PhD in engineering. Applicants must have a Master of Science degree in civil, environmental, geotechnical, or geological engineering, or closely related field, by the position start date. Applicant must have demonstrated ability to work well

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independently and as part of a research team.

This position involves development and implementation of advanced laboratory testing. Thus, prior experience with experimental research in geoenvironmental/geotechnical engineering **is required** (beyond laboratory experience completed as coursework). Due to the experimental nature of the research, the student must maintain an on-campus presence (research cannot be completed remotely).

Responsibilities and Expectations:

Position responsibilities include leading the project's experimental and modelling tasks, collaborating with other graduate students and faculty within VCRWS, training and mentoring undergraduate students, participating in educational activities related to the project, preparing manuscripts describing research findings for publication, and presenting results of the work at national conferences. The GRA will also participate in regular events and professional development activities through VCRWS. Villanova offers a unique, [formal professional development program](#) specifically for doctoral students, allowing students to follow either academic scholar or industry tracks.

How to Apply:

Email applications to Dr. Kristin Sample-Lord (kristin.sample-lord@villanova.edu) with the email subject line "Application for Geoenvironmental PhD Position". Application packages **must be a single PDF file**, including a curriculum vitae/resume and academic transcripts. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Potential students will be required to apply to the degree program prior to commitment.

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact Dr. Kristin Sample-Lord
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Villanova University
Villanova, PA 19073