

Join an exciting research project on “Critical Minerals in Pennsylvanian-aged black shales of the US Midcontinent” and earn your Master’s degree in Geology at the University of Kansas!

We are looking for a highly motivated student to work as a research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Sahar Mohammadi and co-advisor Dr. Ibukun Bode-Omoleye at the Kansas Geological Survey. The project aims to improve our understanding of the critical minerals potential of black shales by collecting new geochemical and petrophysical data and answering scientific questions related to ocean chemistry, paleoenvironmental conditions, facies controls, stratigraphic and depositional conditions, and diagenetic processes favorable for the formation of critical minerals in those horizons.

As a research assistant, you will collaborate with participating surveys to collate pXRF data into a well-defined database and select subsamples for follow-up with higher precision major, trace, PGE, and REE analyses by the USGS. You will have the opportunity to gain valuable research experience and contribute to cutting-edge scientific research.

Funding for the program will be in the form of a research assistantship of 1.5 years (3 semesters + summer) and a teaching assistantship for one semester, funded by the KU Department of Geology (will be requested). The provision for your research assistantship on the project will be for two years; therefore, you are strongly encouraged to complete your research and master’s program within that timeframe.

We are seeking applicants with a Bachelor's degree in Geology. The successful applicant will start the project in summer or fall 2023.

To inquire about this position, please contact Dr. Sahar Mohammadi at sahar@ku.edu with a single PDF attachment that includes: 1) a cover letter describing your interest in the position and how you meet the required and preferred qualifications, 2) a resume/CV, 3) contact information for two professional references, and 4) unofficial transcripts.

Apply by April 1st through <https://geo.ku.edu/graduate-admissions> and take the first step towards a rewarding research career!

