

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2024

Internship Title: Forestry Ecology Field and Lab Technician (2 positions)

Internship Site: Aiken Forestry Sciences Laboratory (FSL; 705 Spear St.)

Description: The University of Vermont's terrestrial biogeochemistry lab seeks a talented and enthusiastic individual to assist with field sampling campaigns and subsequent processing and analysis of samples. This position will provide opportunities to participate in a wide range of lab and field activities related to environmental science and ecosystem ecology. This project will study the impacts of climate change on forests with an emphasis on climate microrefugia, and will explore the drivers of forest composition and soil carbon across scales in New England (likely with opportunities to engage in other lab projects). Tasks will likely include: downloading field sensor data, replacing field sensors, processing samples for carbon and nutrient content and soil properties, running soil inorganic nitrogen analyses, analyzing photographs for vegetation measurements, preparing chemical reagents, cleaning lab glassware, data entry, and prep for fieldwork (e.g., labeling bags), analyzing data, interpreting data. This position involves field research, lab work, data analysis, interpretation, and visualization. There will be many opportunities to network with scientists at the Forestry Sciences Lab.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: The ideal candidate must have an interest in soils, ecology, or biogeochemistry. Some experience in a laboratory and/or field setting is preferred, but not required. Some experience with data manipulation and analysis in R is preferred, but not required. We are looking for someone with strong communication skills and the ability to work independently at times.

Working Conditions

Must be willing to work outdoors as part of a team (usually 2-4 people) under all weather conditions including wet, hot, and rainy days. Applicants must be capable of walking/hiking approximately 2-5 miles, sometimes on back-to-back days. Field sites are often on rather steep slopes that cover up to ~300 m elevation. Sometimes we will follow trails and other times we will walk through forest or fields. This often involves navigating through dense forest with a GPS unit. We work as a team and we work safely. The ability to carry a pack (10+ lbs.) is preferred, but we share the effort. Field sites are located as close as 20 minutes to campus and most are within 3 hours away, with the farthest site about 7 hours away. Carpooling options are available. Farther sites may require overnight stays and lodging will be provided (typically 1-2 nights at a time). Field work will be intermixed with time spent in the lab and conducting data analysis and interpretation.

Supervision: Carol Adair will be the faculty supervisor. The FSL lab manager (TBD), will act as site supervisor responsible for daily supervision and mentoring.

***Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Earning Independent Study or Internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required. ***

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2024 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 20-30 hours/week, 12 weeks

Compensation: \$18/hour

How to apply: Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by summer 2024 are eligible to apply. Students graduating in May 2024 are not eligible to apply. Earning Independent Study or Internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Descriptions in Handshake:

<https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837>

- If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login.
- Click the Favorite button to enable easier searches in the future.

2. Click “View All Jobs” in Jobs at Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program box on right side of page.

3. You should now see the great Perennial Internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.

- Please do take the time to carefully read each individual description so that you don’t miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title.
- You may apply for up to three Perennial Internships.
- All applications are due by **11:59pm, on Monday, February 5th, 2024.**

4. You’ll need to upload both required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:

- Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
- Select Documents.

5. Please upload all documents as pdfs. The following are the required documents:

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- i. You should write and upload a unique cover letter for each position to which you are applying.
- ii. In your cover letter, provide the name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, or a professor or teacher, etc. The person listed should not be the person who completes your recommendation form.

6. In addition to the documents listed above, a **recommendation form will need to be completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student, or staff member of your choosing.** When you ask your recommender if they are willing to complete the form to support your application, please provide your recommender:

- This link: [RECOMMENDATION FORM](#)
- Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you are applying for.
- Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be

confidentially added to your application(s). This recommendation form needs to be submitted by the February 5th, deadline.

7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:

- The Rubenstein Student Advisory Board members are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback! Email the SAB to schedule an appointment after the start of the semester, or stop by their peer mentoring hours when the Spring semester starts (schedule to be posted by Jan 16, 2024): rsenrsab@uvm.edu
- Get your resume and cover letter reviewed by a Career Counselor at the Career Center. You can check the Career Center's drop-in hours [here](#). The Career Center also offers a guide on building your resume available [here](#).

• Get connected with folks in the Rubenstein Student Services Office for resume and cover letter review during drop-in hours:

Meghan Young – Tuesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm, Aiken 219 Emily LeForce – Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm, Aiken 220 Hub
Cathy Shiga-Gattullo – Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm, Aiken 220 Hub

8. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during late February to early March.