Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2016

Internship Title: Wetland Evaluation, Assessment and Monitoring Intern

Internship Site: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Montpelier, VT; with regular field work occurring throughout central and northern Vermont. Montpelier is serviced by the CCTA Regional bus service. UVM students are able to use this service for free with a valid ID.

Description: This internship position will be equally split between participation in EPA’s National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA) and providing assistance to ANR’s Wetlands Program regulatory staff. Both aspects of the internship will primarily focus on field work, with some office assistance involving data management and other tasks. NWCA is a nationwide wetland survey that occurs every five years, and will involve an in-depth assessment of seven wetlands throughout Vermont. Field work for this project will involve assisting a team of four state biologists with a variety of tasks, with an opportunity to gain experience in the survey and collection of plant specimens, identifying wetland stressors, gathering hydrological and water quality data, and collecting and assessing soil samples. Responsibilities in the office/laboratory setting will include preparing and organizing supplies for sampling, reviewing field data, and managing botanical specimens. Intern support for ANR regulatory staff will consist of regular participation in site assistance visits, where State ecologists will meet with landowners and developers to review Vermont’s Wetland Rules and discuss design recommendations. Site visits will involve collecting information on wetland size, connectivity, functions and values; as well as an evaluation of wetland delineations. In the office setting, this position will help maintain the wetlands database, which will include entering client information and wetland data collected during site visits. Assistance with other tasks may be assigned by wetlands ecologists as time allows.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Position requires a highly organized individual with attention to detail. Flexibility is also important, with an ability to maintain focus while performing a diverse set of tasks.

- Prior field work experience, with an ability to work under potentially challenging field conditions (hot, humid and/or rainy weather).

- Prior coursework in any of the following areas; wetland/water resources, botany, soils, and/or ecology.

- Experience with using a database, data management, and/or GIS programs.

- A general familiarity with Vermont’s Wetland Rules and/or EPA’s National Wetland Condition Assessment

*Rubenstein students currently in their first year, sophomore and junior year are eligible to apply.*

Supervision: Intern will be jointly supervised in the Watershed Management Division by the Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program, and the Wetlands Program.
Start and End Dates:  Mid-May – Mid-August, 2016 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours:  20 hours/week, 12 weeks

Compensation:  $12.50/hour.  Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein School Internship Program is required.

How to apply:  Step by step application instructions are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website.  Applications are due by 4pm, Friday, January 29th, 2016 through Blackboard.