



## Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2025

### Internship Position Description

**Internship Title:** Forest Ecology and Soil Carbon Field/Lab Technician (2 positions)

**Internship Site:** George D. Aiken Forestry Sciences Lab (705 Spear St.)

**Description:** The University of Vermont’s terrestrial biogeochemistry lab is seeking two talented and enthusiastic individuals 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 (1) study the impacts of forest management on soil carbon pools as dynamic soil properties with implications for soil carbon storage and forest management and (2) explore the drivers of forest soil composition and soil carbon across scales in New England. There will also be opportunities to engage in other lab projects, including forestry and greenhouse gas projects. Primary tasks will include collecting and processing soil samples for carbon and nutrient content and molecular carbon composition, determination of soil properties and soil density fractionations, preparing chemical reagents, cleaning lab glassware, data entry, and prep for fieldwork (e.g., labeling bags), and analyzing and 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. Navigating to field sites may include traversing steep slopes with large elevation changes through dense forested areas. Sometimes we will follow trails and other times we will walk through forest or fields. This often involves navigating through dense forests 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 throughout Vermont and New Hampshire, and most are within 3 hours away. Carpooling options are available. Farther sites may require overnight stays (typically 1-2 nights at a time). Lodging will be provided when required. 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. Maxwell Landsman-Gerjoi (FSL lab manager) will act as site supervisor and responsible for daily supervision and mentoring.

**Start and End Dates:** (Mid-May to Mid-August 2025 – exact start/end dates are negotiable)

**Total Hours:** Approximately 30 hours/week for 12 weeks

**Compensation:** \$18/hour

How to apply:

**Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by summer 2025 are eligible to apply. Students graduating in May 2025 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 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 Friday, February 7th, 2025.**

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
  - You should write and upload a unique cover letter for each position to which you are applying.
  - 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 7th, deadline.

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

- 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](#).
- Set up an appointment with one of Rubenstein's Career Coaches - [Emily LeForce](#) or [Cathy Shiga-Gattullo](#) - or with PIP Coordinator, [Sarah Mell](#). Sarah Mell will also be available on Wednesdays from 1pm-3pm for PIP Drop-ins! Just swing by Aiken 220 to connect!

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.

