



Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2026

Internship Position Description

Internship Title: Forest Research Assistant

Internship Site: Aiken Forestry Sciences Lab and throughout Vermont

Description: A series of long-term adaptive forest management experiments have been established across Vermont in partnership with Vermont Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation. The RSENr Forest Research Assistant will work at these experiments to support ongoing forest ecology and silviculture research while working closely with scientists and staff in RSENr and the Aiken Forestry Science Lab, as well as managers from partner organizations and agencies. The successful candidate will learn and apply a range of field research skills, including vegetation measurements and use of micrometeorological equipment, as well as practical skills tied to maintenance of experimental plantings, and data management skills associated with field collections. Work will largely be research tasks tied to sponsor-designed projects, although opportunities will exist for intern-designed activities where appropriate. Much of the work will be in an outdoor setting working with other members of research field crews in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Responsibilities/duties: Daily tasks will include traveling to and measuring and maintaining vegetation plots at long-term research sites in Vermont and New Hampshire. Occasional days will be spent entering data collected from field sites, processing soil and vegetation samples, and using brush saws to maintain long-term research plantings. Overnight travel for multiple days with stays in remote, rustic lodging will also be required. Training and mentoring will be provided by the research crew leaders.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: Access to transportation to the Aiken Forestry Science Lab is required. Transportation to field sites will be provided, as will housing at remote field sites if overnight stays are necessary. UVM driver certification is a plus. The work may be physically challenging and may need to be carried out in a variety of weather conditions, so willingness to work outside in all conditions is required and experience in outdoor work is important. Candidates must be reliable, motivated, independent, and open to learning and applying new skills. The ideal candidate will have coursework and/or experience in vegetation identification, use of spreadsheets to manage data, and use of common forest measurement tools.

Supervision: Tony D'Amato, UVM Forestry Program, and Grace Smith, Silviculture and Applied Forest Ecology

***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. ***

Lab. Intern will have daily check-ins with field research crew leads and weekly check-ins with Grace Smith, and bi-weekly check-ins with Tony D'Amato.

Start and End Dates: Mid-May to Mid-August 2026– (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 40 hours/week for 10-12 weeks

Compensation: \$18/hour

How to apply:

Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by summer 2026 are eligible to apply. Students graduating in May 2026 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 the 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 Wednesday, February 4th, 2026.**

4. You'll need to upload a Resume, Cover Letter, and Recommender File in Handshake before you can apply

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for any Perennial Internship:

- Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
- Select Documents.
- 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.
 - ♣ Recommender File (see below) - as you will not have access to the form, you are asked to upload a PDF with the name and email of the recommender to whom you have sent the recommender form.

5. 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 and 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 4th, deadline.**

6. 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 the PIP Coordinator, [Sarah Mell](#). Just swing by Aiken 220 to connect!

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7. 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.

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