



Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2026

Internship Position Description

Internship Title: Research Vessel Deckhand

Internship Site: R/V *Marcelle Melosira* and Rubenstein Laboratory (3 College St, Burlington)

Description: Serve as a deckhand on the R/V *Marcelle Melosira* in support of research and education trips on Lake Champlain. Deckhand will learn how to handle dock lines and contribute to the maintenance of R/V *Marcelle*. Deckhand will contribute to deck operations, including the opportunity to learn to operate winches and scientific gear (e.g., Rosette water sampler, CTD, fishing gear (gillnets, trawling), plankton nets). The deckhand will support educational staff in delivering on-the-water programs to kids and adults, and perform additional tasks as needed. The deckhand will be supervised by the R/V Captain and will receive training from and work alongside the Captain and R/V Specialist. Schedule is flexible based on the vessel's needs and weather. Expect to work up to 40 hours per week, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, with the flexibility for some days to start or end earlier/later. The vessel operates on an irregular schedule (i.e., including night work), but deckhand can opt to work on land during normal workdays or participate in off-hours trips. We will be able to accommodate some days off as needed.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework*:

- Previous boat experience is helpful but not required; we will train you and strongly encourage people without boat experience to apply!
- Ability to follow instructions
- Detail-oriented
- Prioritizes safety
- Takes initiative in one's own learning
- Able to work on your feet for 8 hours
- Perform physical tasks such as lifting objects up to 50 pounds, bend, squat, step from dock to ship and vice versa, climb ladders
- Work outside in all weather (e.g., sun, wind and waves, rain)

**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. **

- While the job has physical demands, deckhand will never be expected to perform tasks outside their comfort level. Duties can be modified to suit the deckhand.
- Flexible attitude given our schedule is weather dependent
- Effective communicator with ability to work in a team and advocate for oneself
- Available to commute to the Rubenstein Laboratory (3 College St) at diverse hours

NOTE: Deckhand intern will have to do a USCG pre-employment drug screening.

Supervision: Intern will be supervised by the Captain and RV Specialist of the R/V *Marcelle Melosira*.

Start and End Dates: Mid-May to Mid-August 2026 – exact start/end dates are flexible.

Total Hours: 40 hours/week for about 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.

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- 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 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:

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- 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!

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

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