



Rubenstein School of Environment  
and Natural Resources

## Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2026

### Internship Position Description

**Internship Title:** Vermont Forest Health Program Intern

**Internship Site:** Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) – Essex Junction, VT

**Description:** This internship will work with Forest Health Program staff at FPR and will focus on multiple ongoing monitoring projects. These include the North American Maple Project (assessing tree health), black ash conservation plots (assessing tree health and EAB progression), beech leaf disease monitoring (assessing tree health and BLD symptoms), and insect trapping. The selected intern will learn standardized tree canopy assessment methods, used by multiple states and the US Forest Service, and gain experience in identifying pests and stressors of concern in Vermont and New England.

**Skills practiced:** Tree identification, Insect and disease identification, Tree health metrics, ArcGIS, possible public outreach

**Working conditions:** This work may require significant off-trail hiking, often in areas with difficult terrain (e.g., steep slopes; swamps). Although based in Essex Junction, travel throughout the state will be required (the intern can ride in state-owned vehicles along with FPR staff).

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework\*:** Tree identification (e.g., dendrology); ArcGIS experience (intro course); comfort in working in remote areas

**Supervision:** Josh Halman, Forest Health Program Manager, Vermont FPR

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

**Total Hours:** 20 hours/week for 12 weeks

**Compensation:** \$18/hour

**\*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. \***

**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.**

**How to apply:**

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 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

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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!

**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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