



Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2026

Internship Position Description

Internship Title: Inland Lake Scientist Intern (2 positions)

Internship Site: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation. Inland lakes across the state will be sampled by either canoe or motorboat. The Inland Lake Scientist Intern will stage out of the ANR Field Operations Center at 30 Bailey Meadows Rd in Middlesex and at 1 National Life Drive in Montpelier and travel with one senior scientist to lakes across the state three days each week (Tuesday through Thursday). Field days are typically long, generally running from 7AM to 7PM. As needed, the Inland Lake Scientist Intern will enter data collected during the field visits either at the National Life Campus or teleworking.

Description: The Inland Lake Scientist will work primarily in the field with one senior scientist from the [Vermont Lake Assessment Program](#). They will assist with sampling and data entry on multiple projects including [Bioassessment](#), [Next Generation Lake Assessment](#), [Climate Change Sentinel Lake/Regional Lake Monitoring Network](#). As mentioned above, field days tend to be long as about a minimum of five hours is spent conducting sampling on a given lake on top of travel time, equipment prep, and decontamination. The internships will begin on 15 June 2026 and run through 21 August 2026. A few local news outlets have covered the work done by the program and may help give candidates a better idea of what kind of work the intern will be involved in conducting. [Vermont Public piece on diatoms](#), [Vermont Public piece on Oligotrophic lake trends](#), a [WCAX piece on Sentinel Lake monitoring](#), and a [Valley News on the Next Generation Lake Assessment](#).

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: The Inland Lake Scientist Intern will be expected to work long hours in a variety of weather conditions, spending hours in canoes and motorboats, hiking into more remote lakes with a heavy pack or portaging a canoe. Preferred qualifications include interest in learning aquatic plants, attention to detail, familiarity with Excel and Access, experience trailering, snorkeling, operating boats, completion of the [Vermont Boating Safety Online Course](#), and ability to swim.

Supervision: Kellie Merrell, Lakes and Ponds Program Aquatic Ecologist, 802-490-6194. Kellie.Merrell@vermont.gov

Start and End Dates: June 15 - August 21, 2026, Tuesdays through Thursdays

Total Hours: 32 hours/week for 10 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 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!

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.