Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab

SAL Internship Position Description

Internship Title: GIS Professional Intern

Internship Site: UVM SAL Aiken Center, 81 Carrigan Drive, Burlington, VT 05405

The Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) at the University of Vermont is an applied research facility that uses geospatial technologies to address real-world challenges and support data-driven decision-making for communities nationwide. SAL internships provide hands-on experience with active projects while building practical GIS, technical, and professional skills.

Interns work closely with SAL leadership and staff under professional mentorship, contributing to science-based natural resource management and planning efforts. The internship combines structured training with hands-on work on real GIS projects, including landcover editing and spatial data preparation. Interns also participate in presentations and workshops that introduce the breadth of SAL's work.

This program also serves as a gateway to paid temporary positions at the SAL dependent on current projects and needs of the lab. Students who demonstrate strong performance, effective communication, and reliability may be offered a paid temporary position following the internship.

Interns may engage in:

- Manual correction of landcover maps. Image and feature interpretation using a variety of geospatial data layers.
- Working with remote sensing and LiDAR data. Data preparation, quality control and assurance checks, and running automated and semi-automated workflows through a variety of platforms.
- Data visualization and cartography. Creating maps and graphs while summarizing results of the project for a public audience. Assisting with report writing or drafting presentations.
- Municipal and regional environmental planning. Interpreting real-world environmental data into recommendations based on needs of stakeholders.
- Tree canopy data development and analysis. Working with geospatial analysis software to identify tree canopy in a variety of climates and processing metrics that provide key information on ecosystem services, planting recommendations, etc.

- Working with clients on professional mapping projects. Building professional experience through attending stakeholder meetings.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:
Students from any major or discipline are encouraged to apply from across all UVM.

- Must have taken an Introduction to GIS course OR can show familiarity with ArcGIS Pro.
    - Acceptable courses: NR 2430, Intro to GIS (Professional & Continuing Education – PACE), GEOG 2510, ANTH 2825
- For earning RSNER credit you will need to create an Experiential learning plan with interest in developing GIS technical skills, professional development and collaboration with community partners from the public, non-profit and/or private sector.

Supervision: SAL Director and staff

Start and End Dates:
By semester with possibility for extension into a paid temporary position based on performance and available projects.
Approximate Internship dates by Semester:
Fall 2026: Aug 31- Dec 11
Spring 2027: Jan 19 – May 7
Summer: June 1 - Aug 30th
Hours: 10-14 hours/week

Compensation:
Option to earn 1-3 credits in the fall or spring semester
Eligibility for Work-Study (if applicable)

Please send us your information including the following:
1. Statement of Interest - Why you are interested in working at the SAL (250 words or less)?
2. Include a 1-page resume listing your Name, e-mail, phone number, address, GPA, any relevant coursework, technical skills such as in GIS, excel, programming languages, any work experience.
3. Submit your availability here: SAL Internship Schedule

Send to: Nsafavi@uvm.edu Nina Safavi, UVM SAL Associate Director, by December 2, 2026!

Once decisions are made, we'll work with you to finalize your schedule and, if you'd like to earn RSENR credit, complete your Experiential Learning Plan.