

# **Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources**

## **University of Vermont**

### **Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2024**

**Internship Title:** Cyanobacteria Monitoring in Vermont Lakes

**Internship Site:** National Life Building (GMT Bus available), Montpelier, Rubenstein lab at UVM, and remote

**Description:** The intern will assist with the Champlain cyanobacteria monitoring program, which is active June through October. Primary responsibility will be the identification and enumeration of weekly cyanobacteria samples collected from Champlain and several inland lakes, completing density calculations and uploading the data to the Dept of Health Tracking website. The intern may also work on the FlowCAM at the Rubenstein ecosystem science laboratory, contributing to the development of new methods for quantifying cyanobacteria. The intern will also assist with coordination of cyanotoxin sample collection, particularly during cyanobacteria bloom events. Additional tasks include communication with cyanobacteria monitoring volunteers, responding to bloom reports around the state, and building our library of pertinent research. There will also be opportunity to assist with sample collection in the Lake Champlain Long-Term Monitoring Program and experience other aspects of work in the DEC Lakes and Ponds Program, and to develop related research projects if interested.

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:** You must be comfortable working at the microscope for 4- 5 hours daily. Experience with algae identification would be great, however training will be provided. An understanding of basic limnology would be helpful as would experience with statistical software (Excel, R, etc.) and data management. The applicant should also be comfortable interacting with citizen monitors in person as well as via email and phone. Access to a car is strongly preferred, but not required.

**\*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. \***

**Supervision:** The intern will be primarily supervised by Dr. Peter Isles, Project leader for the Lake Champlain Long-term Monitoring and Cyanobacteria Monitoring Projects at the Vermont DEC. The intern will occasionally work with others in the DEC Lakes and Ponds Program, the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory at UVM, and with our counterparts at the VT Department of Health.

**Start and End Dates:** Mid-May – Mid-August, 2024 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

**Total Hours:** 30 hours/week for 12 weeks

**Compensation:** \$18.00/hour

**How to apply:** Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by summer 2024 are eligible to apply. Students graduating in May 2024 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 right side of page.

3. You should now see the great 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 Monday, February 5th, 2024.**

4. You’ll need to upload both required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:

- Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
- Select Documents.

5. Please upload all documents as pdfs. The following are the required documents:

- Resume
- Cover Letter

i. You should write and upload a unique cover letter for each position to which you are applying.

ii. 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.

6. In addition to the documents listed above, 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 & 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 5th, deadline.

7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:

- The Rubenstein Student Advisory Board members are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback! Email the SAB to schedule an appointment after the start of the semester, or stop by their peer mentoring hours when the Spring semester starts (schedule to be posted by Jan 16, 2024): [rsensab@uvm.edu](mailto:rsensab@uvm.edu)
- 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](#).
- Get connected with folks in the Rubenstein Student Services Office for resume and cover letter review during

drop-in hours:

Meghan Young – Tuesdays, 10:00am-12:00pm, Aiken 219 Emily LeForce – Thursdays, 1:00-3:00pm, Aiken 220 Hub  
Cathy Shiga-Gattullo – Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm, Aiken 220 Hub

8. 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.