

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2024

Internship Title: 2024 Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Internship

Internship Site: 705 Spear St. Forestry Lab in South Burlington VT and various research sites throughout VT (including Mt. Mansfield and the Lye Brook Wilderness area) and New England (NH, MA, NY, RI, CT, ME). Travel will be required throughout the field season using provided rental vehicles. Data entry/processing can be done from a remote location.

Description: The RSENR Perennial Intern will work as part of a larger crew of 10-12 members, breaking off into crews consisting of two to three additional technicians each week to inventory and assess forest plots as part of a region wide forest health monitoring program. Following training with the Vermont State Department of Forest Parks and Recreation and FEMC staff, crews will work independently to establish monitoring plots, quantify stand composition and structure, assess canopy condition, and conduct regeneration and understory assessments on subplots.

Crews will also be responsible for planning daily trips, maintaining equipment, conducting field work, working with the FEMC database for data entry, as well as developing and contributing content to FEMC social media outlets. Additionally, the FHM Perennial Intern will partly be responsible for assisting in the data quality analysis portion of the program. This will consist of maintaining a data entry schedule that ensures the crew's latest data is entered and put through a rigorous check for errors. Towards the end of the field season a summary analysis for the data will be produced.

The position will ultimately be a balance of field work and data processing/analysis. The field work will primarily take place in Vermont with trips to other states when help is needed. The data will be coming in from our local and regional crews.

Qualifications/skills/coursework:

Required Qualifications: Ability to identify common native and invasive plants in the northeast and familiarity with plants and ecosystems of the northeastern U.S. (this can be demonstrated by having completed a college level dendrology or botany course); Familiarity with, or the willingness to learn, navigation using a map and compass, and/or GPS unit; Experience hiking and camping, and the willingness to do so for this position; Capable of conducting daily field work safely in rough terrain in harsh environmental conditions (heat, rain, biting insects); Strong attention to detail and communication skills; Demonstrate a high level of maturity, responsibility, attention to safety, and a willingness to raise questions or concerns.

Desired Qualifications: Experience conducting field work related to vegetation inventories, plant research, and/or restoration; Wilderness First Aid or other field safety training; Comfort with using plant identification keys, and knowledge of plant taxonomy; Experience maintaining accurate and detailed data records (on paper field sheets and in applications such as Excel/Access); Exposure to forest inventory sampling techniques and protocols.

Physical Demands: For field-based positions, data collection often occurs in remote locations, where cellular connection is unavailable or inconsistent. Field conditions can be challenging, from hot temperatures to heavy rainfall. Travel to and from field plots can be physically demanding with drives that can sometimes reach 8 hours to get to some of our plots in Maine. Ability to lift up to 20 lbs. and hike up to 6 miles per day is expected. Fieldwork will require overnight travel and will involve overnight camping. There may be days where, due to travel, Field Technicians will be expected to work 10+ hours (when daylight allows).

***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: Field Technicians will work with their designated Crew Leader on day-to-day operations, and with Ben Porter (FEMC Monitoring Coordinator), Jerome Lee (Eco- AmeriCorps Member), and other FEMC staff.

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

Total Hours: 40 hours/week for ~10 weeks

Compensation: \$16.80/hour

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 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): rsenrsab@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.