

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

## **University of Vermont**

### **Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2021**

**Internship Title:** 2021 Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) Internship

**Internship Site:** Forestry Lab at 705 Spear St. in South Burlington VT and various research sites throughout VT including Mt. Mansfield and the Lye Brook Wilderness area. Data analysis/processing can be done from a remote location.

#### **Description:**

The RSENR Perennial Intern will work with a crew consisting of three technicians who will train with the Vermont State Department of Forest Parks and Recreation and FEMC staff to inventory and assess forest plots as part of a region wide forest health monitoring program. Following training, 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 develop and contribute 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 while the data will be coming from our local and regional crews.

#### **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. 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. Seniors graduating in May 2021 are not eligible to apply. Earning Independent Study or Internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required. Due to possible restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Perennial Internships may happen as described, be modified or canceled.\***

**Supervision:** Field Technicians will work with their designated Crew Leader on day-to-day operations, and with FEMC Staff John Truong (Monitoring and Services Coordinator), Pia Ruisi-Besares (Project Coordinator), Jim Duncan (Director), Emma Gwyn (Eco-AmeriCorps Member) and VT FPR Forest Health Specialist Emily Meacham for training.

**Start and End Dates:** Early June– August 27, 2021 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

**Total Hours:** 40 hours/week, 10 weeks

**Compensation:** \$13/hour

**How to apply: Step-by-step instructions. Please follow them closely.**

- 1) Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Descriptions in Handshake:  
<https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837>
  - a) If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login.
  - b) 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.
  - a) 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.
  - b) You may apply for up to **three** Perennial Internships.
  - c) All applications are due by 11:59pm, Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- 4) You’ll need to upload both required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:
  - a) Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
  - b) Select Documents.
- 5) Please upload documents as pdfs. The following are required documents:
  - a) Resume
  - b) Cover Letter
    - i) You should write and upload unique cover letters for each position to which you are applying.
    - ii) In your cover letter, provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer

position, a professor or teacher, etc. The person listed should **not** be the person also completing 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.
  - a) When you ask your recommender if they are willing to complete the form to support your application, please provide your recommender this [link to the recommendation form](#)
  - b) Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you are applying for.
  - c) 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 17<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  
- 7) Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:
  - a) The Rubenstein Stewards are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback. Email the Stewards to schedule an appointment after the start of the semester: [RSENRStewards@uvm.edu](mailto:RSENRStewards@uvm.edu)
  - b) Get your resume and cover letter reviewed by a Career Counselor at the Career Center. [You can learn more here about how to schedule an appointment.](#)
  - c) Sign up for a resume/cover letter review appointment with Anna Smiles-Becker (Rubenstein Career Counselor & Internship Coordinator) using [Navigate](#).
  
- 8) If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during early-mid March.