

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2022

Internship Title: Forestry ecology field and lab technician

Internship Site: Aiken Forestry Sciences Building (705 Spear St.)

Description: The University of Vermont's terrestrial biogeochemistry lab seeks a talented and enthusiastic individual to assist with field sampling campaigns and subsequent processing and analysis of samples. This position will provide opportunities to participate in a wide range of lab and field activities related to environmental science and ecosystem ecology. This project will study the impacts of climate change on forests with an emphasis on climate microrefugia and will explore the drivers of forest composition and soil carbon across scales in New England (likely with opportunities to engage in other lab projects). Tasks will likely include: sampling soils and plant litter, processing samples for carbon and nutrient content and soil properties, weighing soils and litter, running soil inorganic nitrogen analyses, downloading field sensor data, analyzing photographs for vegetation measurements, preparing chemical reagents, cleaning lab glassware, data entry, and prep for fieldwork (e.g., labeling bags). This position involves periodic field research and may include data analysis and visualization if interested. There will be many opportunities to network with scientists at the Spear Street lab (COVID dependent) and through virtual platforms.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: The ideal candidate must have an interest in soils, ecology, or biogeochemistry. Some experience in a laboratory and/or field setting is preferred, but not required. We are looking for someone with strong communication skills and the ability to work independently at times. Though not required, knowledge of Northeastern US forest tree and other plant species would enhance your application.

Working Conditions: Must be willing to work outdoors as part of a team (usually 3-4 people) under all weather conditions including wet, hot, and rainy days. Applicants must be capable of walking/hiking approximately 2-5 miles, sometimes on back-to-back days. Field sites are often on rather steep slopes that cover up to ~300 m elevation. Sometimes we will follow trails and other times we will walk through forest or fields. We work as a team and we work safely. The ability to carry a pack (10+ lbs.) is preferred, but we share the effort. Field sites are located as close as 20 minutes to campus and up to 2-3 hours away, and carpooling options are available. Farther sites may require overnight stays and lodging will be provided (typically 1-2 nights at a time). Field work will be periodic and we anticipate a large portion of time will also be spent in the lab.

***Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Seniors graduating in May 2022 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 or be modified. ***

Supervision: Carol Adair will be the faculty supervisor. Two members of Dr. Adair's lab, Marie English (lab manager) and Melissa Pastore (Post-doc), will act as site supervisors responsible for daily supervision and mentoring.

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2021 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 20 - 26 hours/week, 12 weeks

Compensation: \$13.55/hour

How to apply:

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, on Monday, February 21st, 2022.
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 all documents as pdfs. The following are the required documents:
 - a. Resume
 - b. 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

 - a. This link: [recommendation form link](#)
 - 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 21st, 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
 - b. 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.](#)
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.