



2022 Summer Science Internship Position Description

Each year the Great Pond Foundation (GPF) engages college interns to assist with the Ecological Monitoring Program and other initiatives related to maintaining and preserving healthy coastal ecosystems. GPF is committed to scientific data collection, much of which involves assessing water quality and biodiversity in Edgartown Great Pond and Chilmark Pond, as well as other similar coastal ponds on the island of Martha's Vineyard. In addition to the Water Quality Monitoring Program, interns will help with the Biodiversity Monitoring Program and the MV CYANO cyanobacteria monitoring program. The Summer Science Interns will spend 75% of their time in the field working directly with GPF scientists and staff to successfully implement these projects. Interns will also support occasional summer outreach activities hosted by GPF for stakeholders of all ages.

GPF will hire two college students for the Summer Science Internships. In addition to their primary duties, each intern will assist with one of two ongoing, specialized, projects throughout their term described below:

Data Digitization Specialist: This intern will assist GPF's Watershed Outreach Manager with digitization and documentation of historical data related to Tisbury Great Pond. Decades of environmental data for this pond exists in handwritten notes and datasheets. This intern will play a vital role in translating these data into a more accessible format and preserving it for future use. This will include cataloguing, scanning, and interpretation of original documents to create a historical digital database.

Biodiversity Specialist: This intern will assist GPF's Scientific Program Director with the Biodiversity Monitoring Program, collecting data on species composition and abundance of fish, zooplankton, and phytoplankton in the Pond using beach seine and plankton nets. Additionally, surveys of aquatic vegetation, such as eelgrass (*Zostera marina*), will be conducted. This intern will primarily focus on collecting various forms of biological data and processing samples. Experience identifying planktonic species and using microscopes is preferred.

For both internships, the ideal candidates should have an interest and enthusiasm for marine biology, environmental science, and science communication. Candidates must be capable of conducting repetitive tasks and spending long hours in the sun or extreme weather conditions, with field days starting just after sunrise. Ability to collect and record scientific data accurately is required. Experience operating small boats and knowledge of New England coastal habitats and commonly found species is a plus. A typical week will be 25-35 hours, but occasionally up to 40 hours/week. Work is highly dependent on weather and working hours will vary per week. Compensation is \$15/hour. Preferred start-end dates are early-mid June to mid-August, dates are flexible based on school schedules.

Preferred Skills and Qualifications

- Basic laboratory and data analysis skills (i.e., Excel)
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Self-motivated with the ability to work independently and with a team
- Adaptable, hardworking, willing to learn, and have attention to detail
- Comfortable working outside in all conditions
- Comfortable handling marine species such as fish and crabs
- Capable of lifting 50lbs
- Must have own transportation

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and three references with contact information as a single pdf to jobs@greatpondfoundation.org by 5pm on March 4. In your application, please specify which internship position most aligns with your skills and interest.