



Undergraduate Summer Ecology Internship May-August 2023

In partnership with:
Yale School of the Environment
Woodwell Climate Research Center
Buzzards Bay Coalition

Application deadline: March 17th

We seek an undergraduate looking for both field and lab experience in coastal ecosystems. The opportunity is only available for Yale College students. We welcome applications from all levels of experience.

Project Overview: This project explores the impacts of salt marsh “runnels” on community and ecosystem dynamics. Runnels are a novel adaptation tool to mitigate the effects of sea level rise on salt marsh plant die-offs, but the wider ecological ramifications of this geomorphological intervention are unknown. Outcomes of the work will inform ongoing ecological restoration projects and contribute to a wider body of ecological theory. This research is being conducted in partnership with the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Woodwell Climate Research Center, giving the intern an opportunity to explore both ecological nonprofits and non-academic research institutions.

Work Description: The ideal candidate will be available for both fieldwork in New Bedford MA and lab work in New Haven CT as needed. Field experience in salt marshes will include but is not limited to: fish trapping and tagging, invertebrate sampling, deploying decomposition bags, and plant surveys. Lab work will include fish gut content analysis, invertebrate identification and sorting, and other sample processing. Fieldwork is dependent on tidal cycles, so some weekend work is expected.

Qualifications: The candidate should be comfortable working outdoors for extended periods of time, including under adverse weather conditions (heat, rain, etc.), and be able to carry field equipment. While previous experience is not required, the ideal candidate should be willing to handle study organisms including small fish and invertebrates. The ideal candidate will also be organized, adaptable, resilient, and have an interest in coastal ecosystems and restoration. A personal vehicle is not required.

Funding and Housing: The candidate will be responsible for submitting funding proposals to internal Yale summer fellowship opportunities. If fellowship funding is successfully acquired, on-site accommodations for fieldwork in New Bedford MA will likely be supported. The candidate must acquire their own housing for the summer in New Haven. Stipend is expected, though the total amount is contingent on Yale funding.

Mentorship: Ample guidance and mentorship will be provided for the candidate in seeking funding through various Yale Summer fellowship opportunities. This project will embed the intern into a larger network of scientists at the Yale School of the Environment, in addition to the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Woodwell Climate Research Center. Driven by the candidate’s level of interest, mentorship may continue after the summer fellowship has ended.

Senior Essay: The project is highly amenable to a senior essay, with the possibility of extended lab work into the fall semester and mentorship throughout the essay project.

Please send your cv and a 1-2 paragraph statement of interest to Amanda Wik (amanda.wik@yale.edu) no later than **March 17th**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Pre-applications questions are welcome.