

Undergraduate Summer Ecology Internship

May-July 2021 (Exact dates TBD)

We seek an undergraduate looking for both field and lab experience on a series of projects exploring the role of large mammals in nutrient cycling in terrestrial ecosystems over the summer of 2021.

Project Overview: This project seeks to explore how the calving of deer species (and other mammals) impacts the carbon and nitrogen cycle, as well as plant growth. Further understanding of the role of calving on nutrient cycling can help provide a better understanding of how mammals impact the carbon storage and function of the ecosystem in which they reside.

Fieldwork Description: The ideal candidate will be available for a 3-4 week field excursion to Fogo Island, a remote island in Newfoundland, Canada. Accommodations of tents will be provided and food will be supplied. Field dates have yet to be determined, but will likely be from late May to late June. Field experience will include learning experimental design and set up, soil, and plant sampling techniques. While not directly related to the project, the internship also allows for the opportunity to gain experience capturing and tagging caribou calves as a part of a long term monitoring project on the island.

Lab Work Description: Following the field experience, the ideal candidate will be available for 5-8 weeks for lab work at Yale University. The candidate will learn to process soil and plant samples using standard laboratory techniques to examine their nutrient concentrations.

Qualifications: The candidate should be comfortable working outdoors for extended periods of time, including under adverse weather conditions (heat, rain, etc.). The ideal candidate will also be organized, adaptable, and have an interest in terrestrial ecosystem science and wildlife ecology.

Funding: Ideally this project will be funded by internal Yale summer grant opportunities, applied for by the candidate. Depending on grant funding acquired, travel to and from Fogo Island may be supported.

Grant writing mentorship: Ample guidance and mentorship will be provided for the candidate in seeking funding through various Yale Summer grant opportunities.

Please contact kristy.ferraro@yale.edu if you want more information or are interested in the position