



Phytoplankton Monitoring Student Internship Fall or Spring Semester

Purpose

To provide experiential learning opportunities and practical work experience in the field of coastal stewardship. The position is intended for an undergraduate student to explore career interest and develop skills and networking relationships in environmental research and stewardship.

Objectives

- Assist in collection of coastal water samples for phytoplankton related to harmful algal blooms
- Maintain large data set (over ten years of monitoring data exists for the state of Georgia) and photo library of common phytoplankton species observed
- Interact with a diverse group of volunteers and assist in the support of their monitoring activities
- Utilize skills and knowledge gathered during undergraduate studies
- Work in an environment conducive to learning and professional growth

Project Description

Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant is looking for a motivated and energetic individual who enjoys working with diverse groups of people and is interested in environmental research and stewardship. The internship is offered throughout the academic year and will require 5-10 hours of service for 8 weeks. Both credit based and non-credit based opportunities are available. Data generated is part of an ongoing citizen science research project in partnership with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The intern will work closely with UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant volunteers and staff to assist with the sampling of coastal waters, maintaining and analyzing large amounts of data collected at the Skidaway Island and Brunswick Station sites. The intern will have further support from NOAA's Phytoplankton Monitoring Network staff (based in Charleston, SC).

This position is unpaid, but eligible for Experiential Learning Credit through participating universities. Experiential learning is the development of knowledge, skills, abilities, values, behaviors and attitudes through first-hand experiences outside of the traditional classroom. Many colleges and universities provide credit to students who participate in Experiential Learning activities. For UGA students, Experiential Learning credit is required for graduation. For more information about how to receive Experiential Learning Credits through your university, speak to your academic advisor.

Location and Hours

- Position based at UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium on UGA's Skidaway Marine Science Campus, Skidaway Island (30 Ocean Science Circle)
- Biweekly opportunities to travel to Brunswick Station to help in collecting water samples exist
- 8 weeks, 5-10 hours per week, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. No work during university holidays or on weekends.

Minimum Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Intern must be currently enrolled in accredited college/university
- United States citizen or possess a valid U.S. work visa
- Physical ability to work outdoors in summer heat and lift objects up to 50 lbs
- Pre and post internship assessments, progress and summary reports, and exit interview

Preferred Requirements

- Previous experience working in a research laboratory and sample collection in the field.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience using MS Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), email and social media
- Ability to work independently and as part of a small team
- First Aid and CPR certification

Supervisor

Katie Higgins, Marine Educator and Volunteer Coordinator, kt.higgins@uga.edu