



Microplastics Internship Spring Semester For Academic Credit

Purpose

The internship is designed to provide practical research and outreach experience focusing on the topic of microplastics in the environment. The intern will work closely with research scientist, Dr. Jay Brandes at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and Marine Educator, Dodie Sanders at UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant. An internship project will include activities such as field sampling, processing and analysis of samples in the laboratory and disseminating information to the public.

Objectives

- Assist in field sampling to identify the presence of microplastics in Georgia coastal waterways
- Assist in the processing and analysis of samples
- Assist in the development of outreach and educational materials

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 helping communities build environmental, economic and social resilience to weather and climate hazards. The *Microplastics Internship* will be hosted at the UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant office on Skidaway Island, Georgia.

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.

Additionally, intern is eligible to receive academic credit, internship credit, and/or directed research credit for the internship through his/her participating University department. It is the responsibility of the intern to enroll in a credit-based course prior to internship start date. If candidate is unsure how to enroll in an internship credit course, speak to an academic advisor at his or her University about available opportunities, and reach out to marineinternship@uga.edu with any specific position-related questions.

Location and Hours

- Internship is based at UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium on UGA's Skidaway Marine Science Campus, Skidaway Island (30 Ocean Science Circle)
- Remote intern would report to Marine Educator, Dorothea Sanders
- Duration is one semester (fall or spring), 5-6 hours per week, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Supervisor and intern will determine a schedule that works best for both.

Minimum Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be currently enrolled in an institution of higher education
- Completion of internship application
- United States citizen or possess a valid U.S. work visa
- Pre- and post-internship assessments, progress and summary reports, and exit interview

- End-of-term project that will be used by UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant beyond the term of the internship. Project will be designed in collaboration between supervisor and intern

Preferred Requirements

- Previous experience working on public education, outreach or the translation of science to end users
- 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

Supervisor

Dodie Sanders

Marine Educator

sandersd@uga.edu