



C-StREAM Internship Program Invasive Species BMP

Project Description

The Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC) seeks a summer intern for late May through mid-August 2024 (12 weeks) to provide support to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Forestry Workgroup. The Chesapeake Bay Program brings together leaders from state, federal, and local government, as well as academia and the watershed's many communities, to collaborate on creating the best strategies and tools for cleaning up the Bay and the rivers and streams that flow into it. The Chesapeake Bay Program is fueled by science and driven by the partnership. The Forestry Workgroup coordinates, develops, and implements plans and projects that focus on the contributions of forest lands in restoring the health and productivity of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Riparian Forest Buffers (RFBs) are a critical practice for meeting the water quality goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, while also providing critical habitat and climate resiliency benefits. Disturbed riparian zones, as well as newly planted and managed buffers, often must contain one or more invasive species that can damage or slow the restoration project, costing the managing organization time and money. Although best management practices (BMPs) and integrated pest management strategies exist for many common invasives, there is no consolidated resource for natural resource managers and practitioners to access for the Chesapeake Bay Region.

The intern, in collaboration with their supervisor, will begin to develop a database of invasive species commonly affecting RFB projects. The intern will then create fact sheets for each species detailing their history, spread, and BMPs for each species. The intern may accomplish this task by collaborating with and interviewing forestry partners and the USFS forest health team, considering the best science available, and through field visits. Depending on the interests and skills of the intern, the intern may also assist in the creation of educational public-facing graphics, create GIS maps, and support other timely Forestry Workgroup projects. These resources will provide valuable information for practitioners on effective methods for managing invasive species in riparian areas, supporting the successful establishment and maintenance of new forested buffers in the watershed. The position will be supervised by Lorenzo Cinalli (USDA Forest Service). Degree in natural resource management, environmental science, forestry, biology, or related field preferred.

Opportunities

This internship will provide a unique opportunity to contribute to large-scale, long-term natural resource management efforts to improve Chesapeake Bay water quality and benefit living resources across the 64,000-square-mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. The C-StREAM student will gain experience in natural resource management, restoration science, and environmental policy. In addition, this internship experience will provide insights into careers in forestry and natural resource management and allow students to make connections with established environmental management and science professionals. There may also be opportunities to conduct fieldwork alongside invasive professionals.

Deliverables

- Outline the structure of an online riparian forest invasive species database.
- Create fact sheets of the most common invasive species in riparian areas in the Chesapeake Bay watershed detailing their history, spread, and BMPs for each species.
- Support on other timely Forestry Workgroup projects.
- Presentation at SERC (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center) at the conclusion of the internship summarizing the experiences gained and work conducted, with a similar presentation virtually with the Forestry Workgroup.

Required Qualifications

- Majoring in natural resource management, environmental science, forestry, biology, or a related field.
- Interest in environmental science, communication, and/or community engagement.
- Knowledge of and/or comfort in using reference sources on flora and fauna of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Motivated self-starter with the ability to work and reason independently.
- Must be a college-level student entering sophomore, junior, or senior year of undergraduate study. Students are also eligible to participate during the immediate summer following their graduation if they are pursuing graduate studies in the fall.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen and willing to undergo a security background check.

Desired Qualifications

- Strong skills, or a willingness to learn about:
 - Performing scientific research through a variety of different sources
 - Writing skills as it relates to science communication.
 - Graphic design with a software of choice.
 - Website design with WordPress.



- GIS
- Willingness to engage in occasional light field work performing invasive removal.

Work Location and Duration

This position will be in person, with options for remote work as needed. The location will be based out of the EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office in Annapolis, Maryland. The position will begin in mid-May and conclude in late August and will be in place for 12 weeks. We plan on providing interns with access to a computer, email, and phone services (in the office). Interns will also need to have access to suitable internet, computer, and communication resources if work is performed virtually.

Compensation

The intern will receive a stipend at the end of each month, for a total of up to \$6,000 for the equivalent of 12 weeks of full-time activities (422 Hours). Funds are available to compensate interns for occasional work-related travel and a one-time \$1000 housing stipend will be available to support housing costs and related needs. Candidates should expect to follow a normal weekday work schedule (roughly 9-5, M- F) with occasional variations for possible fieldwork or other activities. No benefits are provided.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Chesapeake Research Consortium is committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive science-oriented workforce. Our internship program endeavors to recruit from a diverse, qualified group of potential applicants to secure a high-performing workforce drawn from all segments of American society. CRC is strongly supportive of broadening the participation of historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in underserved areas. **We highly encourage** applications from students at any of the above institutions as well as students that identify as **black, Indigenous, person of color, or 1st generation** college student.

Application Instructions

Applicants are instructed to register with the Chesapeake Jobs online application website: <https://chesapeake.org/c-stream/> to apply. You will be instructed to submit a resume detailing your education and work experience and a cover letter that details your interest in this position and describes how your skill set will contribute to the work described above, along with three references. **The deadline for applications is by midnight on January 28, 2024. The reference form is due by February 4, 2024.**