



Future Ecologists Internship

As ecologists, we know that ecological communities and organizations are strongest and most resilient when they are most diverse. However, we have much work to do to create and sustain diversity and equity in the field of ecology itself—[one of the least diverse fields of science](#). As an organization that aims to “unite people and science for conservation,” we recognize that to truly advance that goal we must create a culture that celebrates diversity, fosters inclusivity, and values dissenting opinions and rigorous examination within our own community. With those goals in mind, the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) is announcing our new internships for individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color—the Future Ecologists internship. This internship will provide two aspiring ecologists the opportunity to join VCE in our various research and conservation initiatives this summer (May 23-August 12, 2022). We recognize that gaining experience in ecology can open many doors, but that individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color have been systematically denied equal opportunities to enter the field of ecology.

VCE is committed to achieving an anti-racist and inclusive working environment that supports staff well-being and healthy work-life balance.

Responsibilities

As a Future Ecologist intern, you will be immersed in our various research initiatives in the field and at our offices in White River Junction VT. Detailed information on our current projects can be found on our website: <https://vtecostudies.org/projects/>. Interns will work closely with [Dr. Jason Hill](#), [Abbie Castriotta](#), and [Dr. Ryan Rebozo](#), but will have the opportunity to learn from each of VCE’s biologists on how research projects are designed and implemented while contributing meaningful data to these studies. Your responsibilities can vary from week to week but will range from monitoring and managing rare plant populations, capturing and identifying bumble bees along power lines, assisting with netting and banding birds atop Mount Mansfield, entering data at our offices, to camping out on mountains to conduct early-morning bird surveys. Applicants should be prepared to travel to various research sites



around Vermont and New Hampshire. Interns will also be responsible for keeping organized and detailed notes when conducting field work.

Qualifications

We encourage undergraduates and ecologists in the early stages of their career to apply. More important than past ecological field experience, successful applicants will be able to demonstrate their passion for conservation and interest in VCE programs in their application. Each intern will receive the training necessary to safely carry out their work but we seek mature, motivated individuals who will begin the internship ready to learn and contribute. The ability to work well both alone and collaboratively are important for these internships and will help to ensure a productive experience. Attention to detail, good field note-taking skills, and an ability to embrace a varied work schedule and field conditions are other important attributes for this position.

Compensation

Compensation for the Future Ecologists internship is \$15/hour and interns are not eligible for VCE benefits (such as retirement contributions and health care). All personal mileage accrued during the internship will be reimbursed at the federal mileage reimbursement rate, as will personal, project-related expenses. VCE can offer financial assistance for securing housing within commuting distance of our office and for necessary field equipment.

How to Apply

To apply please submit a brief cover letter, resumé, and a written statement on your interest in joining VCE, how you believe this internship will influence your future as an ecologist, and how you fit our intended audience of early-career scientists underrepresented in ecology, to Ryan Rebozo (rrebozo@vtecostudies.org) by **April 4th 2022**.