

Undergraduate Research Experience: The Conservation Management Institute



Two undergraduate research positions are available with the Conservation Management Institute at Virginia Tech beginning in the Spring 2020 semester and extending through the Summer and Fall 2020 semesters. The Conservation Management Institute (CMI) Undergraduate Research Experience is designed to give undergraduate students experience in developing, designing, and executing research project that supports the overall research objectives of CMI. A CMI faculty member will mentor and supervise the students throughout the length of the project.

Position 1 will support ongoing plant ecology and field botany research at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP). The selected candidate will work with the CMI Principle Investigator to identify a specific research question related to plant ecology that fits within the overall project objectives. For this position, we seek a student with junior standing and interests in plant ecology, field botany, biogeography, forest ecology, forestry, or related fields. The successful applicant will have basic field experience in the identification of flora in the field and lab. Experience and/or classroom exposure in developing geospatial data sets a plus. Research will require students navigate over rough terrain using topographic maps, GPS and compass, Applicants must be willing to work in adverse weather and field conditions. Students must be available to work in the Blacksburg area during the summer of 2020.

Position 2 will support ongoing bat population and habitat research at the Radford Army Ammunition Plant (RAAP). The selected candidate will work with the CMI Principle Investigator to identify a specific research question related to bat ecology that fits within the overall project objectives. For this position, we seek a student with junior standing and interests in wildlife biology, bat ecology, field biology, biogeography, or related fields. The successful applicant will have basic field experience. Experience and/or classroom exposure in developing geospatial data sets a plus. Research will require student navigate over rough terrain using topographic maps, GPS and compass, Applicants must be willing to work in adverse weather and field conditions. Student must be available to work in the Blacksburg area during the summer of 2020.

These positions will begin during the spring semester 2020 where the selected students will work with the CMI mentor to develop a research/project plan that will be implemented during the summer of 2020 at the RAAP. During the summer of 2020, the students will work as a team with other CMI field researchers to implement teach individual research/project plan. In the fall of 2020 the students will analyze data, write a project report, and develop a presentation for a professional conference.

These are wage (11.00/hr) positions with no benefits. During the Spring semester and Fall semester students will be limited to a maximum of 10 hrs/week. During the Summer of 2020 students will be expected to work 30-40hours/week.

To apply: Submit a cover letter and resume including the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references, To: Dr. Verl Emrick, Virginia Tech Conservation Management Institute, 1900 Kraft Drive Moss Building Suite 105 , Blacksburg, Va 24061. Phone 540-231-8851; email: vemrick@vt.edu.

Applications must be received no later than **December 6, 2019**.