

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Florida Sea Grant is offering the following paid opportunities for Undergraduate Students interested in working on projects with our Florida Sea Grant Affiliated Faculty. Eligible students must be undergraduate students who are not graduating prior to Fall 2023. Students must be willing and able to work at the specified location and understand that this opportunity does not provide housing or additional funding to support housing.

Deadline & How to Apply:

Interested students should submit a resume, cover letter, and completed online form within the online FSG application portal <https://eflseagrant.ifas.ufl.edu/> by **May 1, 2023**.

Funding:

Interns will be paid \$15.00/hour for up to 260 hours. Students can work full-time for six weeks or part-time during the year. Internships must be completed by the end of December 2023.

Expectations:

Interns funded by FSG are expected to compile information about their experiences and research conducted to share with Florida Sea Grant and other UF Research Administrators in January 2024 at a Research Symposium hosted by FSG at the University of Florida. The FSG Communications team will also interview the intern in order to share stories about them and their work with the greater FSG network.

Questions about this opportunity can be directed to Cassie Sexson, FSG Student Programs Coordinator at students@flseagrant.org.

AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

Opportunity 1:

Title: Characterization of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* phages and formulation of cocktails for broadly reactive control measures

Faculty Affiliate:

Dr. Naim Montazeri, University of Florida – Food Science and Human Nutrition Department

Opportunity Location:

University of Florida Campus – Gainesville, FL

Project Description:

Vibrio parahaemolyticus is the leading cause of bacterial foodborne illnesses associated with raw or undercooked molluscan shellfish, including oysters. This research aims to develop biocontrol measures to inactivate the pathogen in oysters using phages, the viruses that infect (kill) bacteria. Ten lytic phages have been isolated from FL oysters; two highly lytic isolates are undergoing further characterization. The internship provides the opportunity for the student to team up with current researchers to characterize the infectivity of selected phages against *V. parahaemolyticus* strains, formulate phage cocktails to use against various strains of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and assess their potential applications in raw oysters.

Intern Duties:

The student will work in a team under Dr. Montazeri's supervision. Responsibilities include performing experimental research, collecting, and analyzing data, presenting data to scientific communities (local and national conferences) and the general public, and having a pivotal role in the technical writing of research findings. The student will be responsible for general lab duties (media prep, cleaning, organization, etc), and mentoring other personnel (if needed).

Opportunity 2:

Title: Lake Okeechobee discharge impacts on harmful algal blooms in the Caloosahatchee Estuary

Faculty Affiliate:

Dr. Edward Philips, University of Florida – School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Opportunity Location:

At UF Millhopper location in NW Gainesville, and field studies in the Caloosahatchee estuary

Project Description:

Two new grants from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the effects of harmful algal blooms associated with Lake Okeechobee discharges into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. The students will assist with the research associated with these grants and HABs in this region.

Intern Duties:

The intern would participate in microscopic analyses of phytoplankton in water samples, spectrophotometric analyses of pigment composition, and some field collections of water.