

2019 Summer Research Internship

The Shaw Institute (formerly the Marine & Environmental Research Institute, MERI) is looking to fill a Marine Research Summer Internship position for the 2019 field season. This is a full-time position requiring a minimum 3-month commitment from June through August, ideally through September (start date TBD).

The Shaw Institute is a 501(C)3 nonprofit scientific research organization based in Maine and New York City. Founded in 1990 by Dr. Susan Shaw (as the Marine & Environmental Research Institute), the Shaw Institute's mission is to discover and expose environmental health threats through innovative science and engage in strategic partnerships to improve human and ecological health. Over three decades, the Institute's pioneering research on ocean pollution, sentinel species, flame retardants, plastics, and climate change has fueled public policy nationally and internationally. To learn more about our work, visit www.shawinstitute.org.

The Blue Hill Research Center is located on the Blue Hill Peninsula in a unique coastal ecosystem bridging mid-coast and "Downeast" Maine. A habitat for bald eagles, harbor seals, porpoises, and a rich variety of marine and terrestrial wildlife, the landscape is dotted with small fishing villages, wooden boatyards, and blueberry fields. Interns will spend the season studying the impacts of development, global warming, and pollution on this pristine ecosystem.

This internship is an excellent opportunity for an individual working towards a career in public health, science communication, marine biology, ecotoxicology, coastal ecology, environmental conservation, or a related field to gain practical experience in the field and in the laboratory. The ideal candidate will possess a personal interest in environmental research and a commitment to the mission of the organization.

Job Description

The Summer Intern will assist the Shaw Institute Research Department with a public health project investigating bacterial loads at local swimming beaches and their link to gastrointestinal illness. This is a science communication internship that will require long hours in the field conducting surveys of local beach goers activities and communicating our research to the public, and some time in the office conducting follow-up interviews via the phone. Other duties may include helping with sampling of bacteria and harmful algal blooms, assisting on the Shaw Research Boat and with response to marine mammal strandings (whales and harbor seals) in the Downeast region as needed.

Specific Duties

- Conduct shore-based surveys at local swimming beaches about beach-goer activities as they relate to potential bacteria exposure and gastrointestinal symptoms
- Conduct follow-up interviews over the phone with previously surveyed beach-goers on their continued swimming experience and any new or developing gastrointestinal symptoms
- Perform data entry and management of survey and interview records
- Assist the research team with sample collection both from shore and the Shaw research vessel at sites in the greater Blue Hill Bay
- Assist with marine mammal stranding response as-needed, including potential on-site tissue collection and necropsies in the Shaw laboratory

- Effectively communicate and promote the Shaw Institute’s research and mission to the public
- Prepare a final summary report of your project at the end of your internship
- Assist with in-house events including the environmental lecture series and other duties relating to the organization's goals and mission as required

Reports to: Marine Research Coordinator

Qualifications:

Applicants should possess or be working towards a BA or BS degree in public health, ecotoxicology, science communication, coastal ecology, environmental conservation, or a related major. Applicants must be fairly independent, outgoing, and not afraid to engage strangers in conversation. Experience with interviewing, conducting public health surveys or other surveying is ideal, but some communication-related experience is required (outreach, reception, customer service, etc.) Reliable data collection and record-keeping are essential for this position and therefore applicants must also be efficient, well organized and detail oriented. Interns may spend long hours in the hot sun and must be able to work outside in a variety of environmental conditions, be willing to get dirty, muddy, and wet. They should also be comfortable working on a marine research vessel, and be available to work occasional nights and weekends as needed. Excellent communication skills, both in person and over the phone, are a must.

Knowledge of computer software including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel required. Applicant must possess a valid driver’s license and a good driving record. Only US citizens or lawful permanent residents should apply. Position requires some physical activity and applicant should be able to lift up to 40 lbs.

Time Requirements:

June – August/September (start date TBD) Full-time (40 hours/week); additional hours to be agreed upon by employee and Director.

Compensation:

Stipend and shared housing in Blue Hill, Maine. Housing is within walking distance to the Institute. Interns are responsible for all travel expenses and food.

Deadline to Apply is March 15, 2019

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a cover letter outlining your experience, career objectives, and why you are interested in an internship at the Shaw Institute, along with your Resume/CV and contact information for three references to:

Madelyn Woods, Marine Research Coordinator, at mwoods@shawinstitute.org
Indicate “Summer Research Internship, NAME” in the subject line of your email.

Please, no phone calls.

Shaw Institute
PO Box 1652, 55 Main Street Blue Hill, ME 04614
Website: www.shawinstitute.org

Shaw Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer