USGS Internship Opportunity

Reston Microbiology Laboratory

The USGS Reston Microbiology Laboratory conducts environmental microbiology research aimed at understanding the role of microorganisms in contaminated and pristine ecosystems. We carry out a diverse array of research including projects aimed at understanding (1) microbial degradation of hydrocarbons at crude oil spill sites; (2) biodegradation of PFAS compounds; and (3) ecological responses of microbes to impacts from oil and gas production. In our work, we use methods from microbiology, molecular biology, and biogeochemistry, such as DNA-based sequencing and anaerobic and aerobic cultivation.

We are seeking a highly motivated intern that is interested in gaining experience in interdisciplinary microbiology research. Students with interests in microbiology, biogeochemistry, biology, geomicrobiology, or bioremediation would be a good fit with our program. No previous laboratory experience is required – we want motivated and energetic students willing to learn new things and work in with a research team.

Proposed Intern Tasks:

The intern will assist with the analysis of environmental samples using molecular biology (e.g., DNA extractions and PCR) and cultivation approaches. They will also be responsible for helping with day-to-day lab maintenance, entering data into Microsoft Excel, and participating in analyses of the data.

The position is in-person in Reston, Virginia and funds may be available to pay a stipend and/or offset travel costs.

Candidate Criteria:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Interest in the projects outlined above and being a part of a research team
- Experience with Microsoft Office, especially using Microsoft Excel
- Courses in Biology, Environmental Science, or Microbiology are preferred
- Plus: general laboratory experience such as via a biology or chemistry laboratory course

Contact Information:

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