



STUDENT INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

HARVEST: Helping Aquaculture Reap Value and Enhance Student Training

Florida Sea Grant (FSG) is pleased to announce a university and college student internship program, HARVEST: Helping Aquaculture Reap Value and Enhance Student Training, offering college students paid part-time internships (up to 20 hours per week) with aquaculture businesses. The duties of these internships include but are not limited to farm work including gear maintenance, animal husbandry, harvesting, processing, culling, data collection, equipment maintenance, assisting with aquaculture-based science experiments, outreach and education, and communications. The internship will aid in a variety of needs denoted by the aquaculture business to increase survivability, productivity, efficiency, sustainability, public outreach, and education.

This internship opportunity will place a currently enrolled student with off-bottom oyster culture businesses located at the Oyster Bay and Skipper Bay Aquaculture Use Zones (AUZ) in Wakulla County and Alligator Harbor AUZ in Franklin County. These small businesses will be involved in applied research projects being conducted by the UF/IFAS Shellfish Aquaculture Extension Program. Working with these oyster growers will offer the intern a unique opportunity to assist in field research activities and be actively engaged in farm operations, including culturing and harvesting the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*).

Internship Dates

June 2022 to January 2023

Internship Duties

The HARVEST intern will gain experience in all facets of oyster aquaculture, including commercial and research activities. The intern will assist with scientific studies evaluating the co-culture of oysters with sea urchins for biofouling control, performance of selectively bred oysters, and nitrogen removal services of oysters. The student will work closely with UF faculty in initiating field trials and sampling at regular intervals at multiple farm sites and work directly with participating growers in routine project maintenance. During which, water quality parameters will be measured, and conditions of test animals and gear noted. For all projects, the intern will be expected to maintain gear and equipment, collect data, and maintain detailed records and observations. The intern will communicate with UF faculty regularly about responsibilities associated with the projects. It is expected the intern will assist with extension activities, such as providing posts via social media of project activities.

In addition, the intern will work with project participants in the husbandry of their crops. Working with multiple oyster growers will allow the intern to be trained in using several off-bottom culture methods. Duties include, but will not be limited to, maintaining gear, culturing, grading, harvesting, and processing of oysters.

Internship Required Qualifications

- Must be a currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate student, preferably in a STEM-related discipline.
- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must be organized, punctual, and on time for work.
- Must have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation to work sites in Franklin and Wakulla counties.
- Must be capable of understanding and following instructions from the supervisor.
- Must be able to work outside in all weather conditions - wet, cold, hot, dry, and rough water, at various times of the day, including early morning hours, evenings, and weekends when necessary.
- Must have flexibility in their work hours.
- Must be able to swim.
- Must be physically able to lift, push, and pull up to 60 pounds.
- Must wear proper safety and personal protective equipment (PPE) when necessary and comply with all health and safety guidelines.
- Must be able to speak and understand English.
- Must work well with growers and other crew members, and independently.
- Must have access to a personal computer for entry of data and field observations.

Desired Qualifications and Experience

- Boat handling experience
- Knowledgeable about Florida's coastal environments
- Shellfish experience and knowledge

Compensation and Schedule

Student interns will be established as OPS employees of the University of Florida with a set salary of \$15/hour. The intern will work up to 20 hours/week for approximately 6-7 months (June 2022-January 2023, or a total of 520 hours). Reimbursement for mileage to travel to oyster farms in the Panacea/Alligator Harbor area will be offered. Some flexibility in the schedule is allowed to establish working relationships between the student intern and aquaculture businesses, and to account for variations in work requirements related to the research projects, such as sampling and maintenance schedules. Field gear, such as gloves, boots, booties and foul weather gear, will be provided.

How to Apply

Submit a cover letter, resumé and list of three references to Leslie Sturmer (Email: Lnst@ufl.edu). Please submit materials in one email. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Email Ms. Sturmer with any questions. A review of applications will begin June 3, 2022. **The internship will begin June 24, 2022.**

Hiring is contingent upon eligibility to work in the US. The University of Florida is a public institution and subject to all requirements under Florida Sunshine and Public Record laws. The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The University of Florida is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression.

May 17, 2022