



PINEMAP Fellowship Program

Undergraduate Fellowship Announcement

2015

Agency: Virginia Tech, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation

General Description:

Program Objectives:

1. Engage undergraduate fellows in research and communication
2. Develop and deliver inquiry-based science lessons
3. Convey value and relevance of southern forests and climate change

Program Description:

The Pine Integrated Network: Education, Mitigation and Adaptation Project (PINEMAP) Undergraduate Fellowship Program provides undergraduate fellows from across the US with a research experience under a graduate student, post-doc, or research staff mentor and prepares them to successfully deliver secondary school science or social studies lessons based on summer research. This program partners fellows with graduate students based on interest areas. Selected undergraduate students will be provided the opportunity to work during a summer internship with a researcher in one of the following disciplines, or Aims: ecophysiology and silviculture, modeling, genetics, economics and policy, education, and extension. Fellows will be integrated into their mentor's research program and participate in data collection and hypothesis testing at a host university. Undergraduates will then enroll in a fall distance education course in inquiry-based science education and work with classmates to develop and improve engaging lessons for secondary school life science, biology, or social study classes. We will begin the course mid-summer to reduce the overall course load in the fall. Lesson topics will be based on research activities conducted during the past summer and, potentially, materials developed for a Project Learning Tree module. Fellows will then visit classrooms in their communities to lead these inquiry-based activities. Examples of past lessons include understanding the carbon cycle, exploring the carbon on their campuses, life cycle analysis, genetics, and understanding the value of trees in mitigating climate change and in production of wood products.

Qualifications:

Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen or hold a valid Green card

Must have completed freshman year; sophomore or junior status, GPA > 3.0 preferred.

Seniors may qualify (see Conditions).

Well-organized, strong verbal and written communication skills

Must be able to pass a background check as part of VT hiring policy

Mandatory enrollment in fall 2015 distance learning course as an independent study at your institution

Should have interest in natural resources, environmental science, or environmental studies as a potential career area



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

Compensation:

Fellows may earn \$7,000 at maximum. Undergraduate fellows are temporary wage employees of Virginia Tech, although you will work at your mentor's university, and earn \$5,250 for 40 hours of work each week for 12 weeks during summer. You may earn up to \$1,750 during the fall semester. Summer housing is not provided. Up to \$1,000 is available for development of education materials and reimbursement for travel to public schools (applies to fall 2015 only).

Conditions:

Students must relocate for field or lab research during summer 2015. You will need a faculty sponsor (e.g., your advisor) at your institution to agree to sign you up for an independent study/special topics course for letter grade credit. You must be physically able to conduct the work of assigned projects (e.g., field work). Mandatory enrollment in distance inquiry-based communication class for fall 2015 (this may be substituted for a required public speaking course dependent on your university's course substitution policy). This course will include topics on effective communication, education, and presentation development. Additionally, you will be required to give multiple presentations at local public schools on your own.

Submission Deadline: **February 13, 2015.** With up to 12 fellowships available this year, we greatly encourage you to apply.

Announcement of Awards: **March 2015.** We will hold a mandatory online conference with the strongest applicants before the final selection and announcement.

To Apply:

Visit <http://www.pinemap.org/education/undergraduate/internship-announcement> for additional information and online application.

You will need to submit an essay approximately 500 words in length regarding why you want to be an intern. You should explicitly state which PINEMAP Aim you are interested in and explain your interest in that discipline. Essays can be pasted into the application, but will be in 12 pt Helvetica.

Your faculty advisor should email or postal mail a signed letter of understanding certifying that you have room in your schedule for the fall course.

Submit completed applications via email to the program coordinator.

Contact Information:

John Kidd, Coordinator
Virginia Tech
Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation
228 Cheatham Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061
jbkidd@vt.edu
(540) 231-7744

