



## Perennial Internship Program – Summer 2025

### Internship Position Description

from the greater Burlington area will be possible for most of the work, oftentimes in state office and lab work is conducted in Montpelier at the National Life Campus, which is serviced by Regional bus service (<http://cctaride.org/bus-routes-schedules>

\_\_\_\_\_), or at the Vermont Agriculture and Environmental Laboratory (VAEL) 163 Admin Drive Randolph Center, VT 05061

**Description:** Field projects occur at various sites statewide throughout the duration of the internship, as weather allows, and the position will be comprised of roughly 80% field work. Intern will work side-by-side with experienced ANR Watershed Management Division field staff to monitor for aquatic invasive plants and animals and implement control techniques for select species when necessary. This aspect of the position may involve sampling, surveying, or harvesting invasive species from motorized watercraft, kayak, and in-the-water monitoring using snorkeling gear, depending on each individual situation. The intern will also be involved in AIS spread prevention efforts, which may involve training in watercraft inspection and decontamination for aquatic invasives and assisting with ANR's messaging campaign to inform the public of AIS threats. Depending on the skillset of the intern, there may be opportunities to generate print, blog posts, and online media for the program. Additionally, the intern may assist with cyanobacteria sampling and cell counting depending on interest and skillset.

The intern will also have the chance to assist staff with educational workshops, laboratory identification of native and nonnative plants and animals, and other opportunities that may become available over the course of the summer. The intern will be involved in nearly all facets of AIS management, and will leave this internship with an understanding of the environmental, financial, and social aspects considered when managing aquatic nuisance species.

**Field Conditions:** Applicant will always be working as part of a team when in the field. Applicants must be capable of kayaking/canoeing to aquatic invasive species management sites, often times a 20-30 minute paddle, but potentially longer. The applicant must be willing to hand pull invasive species, which will require getting into and out of a kayak, carrying heavy (~20 lb) baskets filled with invasive plant material, and navigating uneven surfaces both on land and in shallow water. The applicant may assist with field surveys, requiring exposure to the elements for multiple hours in a kayak/canoe/boat. Field surveys will require time spent sitting, tossing sampling equipment (similar to throwing and pulling up a small ~5lb anchor), and sorting through plant material. Additional fieldwork may require wading in shallow water (1-2 ft) in order to inspect

for aquatic nuisance species. Personal safety in the highest priority while working in the field under various conditions.

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework\*:** See below

- x Must be able to swim and be comfortable working in motorized and nonmotorized watercraft in all types of weather conditions
- x Must be able to lift moderately heavy objects (e.g., boat anchor, sampling gear, canoe, kayak)
- x A basic biological knowledge a must, aquatic biology background helpful
- x Attention to detail, especially in field settings when collecting data
- x Prior experience with taxonomic keys a plus
- x Prior boating experience a plus, but not required
- x Working knowledge of EXCEL, WORD, and basic database management preferred

**Supervision:** Intern will be supervised by Lizzy Gallagher with the Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program within the Watershed Management Division of ANR's Department of Environmental Conservation.



