Program Description

The Internship Program at the Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory (PEARL) offers undergraduate and recently graduated students unique hands-on experiences in an environmental research setting. The student will gain knowledge on field and laboratory research and project designs. During the entire course of the internship, each student will work exclusively under the guidance and supervision of a PEARL faculty research scientist. A PEARL intern will be involved in meaningful research during the internship and will present the findings at a PEARL seminar/minisymposium series at the end of the summer.

About Our Center

Morgan State University’s Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Laboratory (PEARL) is located on the Patuxent River (part of Chesapeake Bay watershed) in St. Leonard, MD. Research conducted at the state-of-the-art facility is designed to increase the understanding of coastal ecosystems so that they may be properly managed and protected. The Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Laboratory maintains excellent facilities that include: a 22,000 square foot laboratory and office building, a fleet of vehicles for field work including multiple research vessels; a private dock providing access to the Patuxent River; scuba support and dive locker; teaching laboratory; range of research laboratories, including isotope, constant temperature and microscopy labs. For more information about PEARL go to:

http://www.morgan.edu/pearl
Eligibility
This program is open to all undergraduate students and those who have recently graduated from college. You do not need to be a US citizen to apply but a social security number is required. Applicants must be accepted by a PEARL affiliated researcher.

Intern Supervisor
You will be working under the guidance of your intern supervisor. The supervisor will direct you in your daily work, your schedule and guide you through your internship project.

To choose your supervisor, take a look at the “Faculty and Research at PEARL” sheet or go to our website and look under Research Programs. You may want to contact one or more faculty from PEARL and discuss their research interests to ensure that they match your interests.

Stipend and Boarding
Each intern will receive $450 per week. Limited on-site housing is available for $75 per week.

Expectations:

- **Hours**
  Interns are expected to work full-time (40 hours per week) with their supervisor for 10 weeks during the summer months. This time-frame is flexible, and must be discussed with your supervisor before you start. The tentative time frame for the internship is June 6th (orientation) through August 12th, 2016 but this is subject to change. The PEARL approved time frame will be given upon acceptance.

- **Projects**
  An internship project will be designed under the guidance and supervision of a PEARL faculty research scientist and completed by the end of the internship period. Findings will be presented in a minisymposium at the end of the summer.

- **Orientation**
  An orientation and a safety seminar will be given before the start of the internship. The safety seminar, given by the safety officer, is required before lab and field work can be done. The orientation will give you information on various aspects of the internship and your summer at PEARL. It will also give you an opportunity to meet other students, faculty and staff from PEARL.
Faculty and Research at PEARL

Dr. Kelton Clark
Director of Morgan State University Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Laboratory
✓ Community and population structure
✓ Oyster aquaculture
410-586-9706 • kelton.clark@morgan.edu

Dr. Chunlei Fan
Assistant Professor Biology Department
✓ Hyperspectral remote sensing
✓ Monitoring eutrophication processes
✓ GIS/ Remote sensing
✓ Aquatic microbial ecology
410-586-9712 • chunlei.fan@morgan.edu

Dr. Elka Porter
Assistant Professor, University of Baltimore
✓ Benthic-pelagic coupling processes
✓ Resuspension impacts on water quality
✓ Mesocosm experimentation
410-837-5917 • eporter@ubalt.edu

Dr. Mark Bundy
Environmental Program Manager
✓ Environmental Entrepreneurship
✓ Regional economic assessment of the impacts of developing offshore wind turbines on recreational fishing
410-586-9707 • mark.bundy@morgan.edu

Dr. Scott Knoche
Senior Research Economist
✓ Marine Resource Policy and Management
✓ Fisheries Economics
✓ Human dimensions of fish and wildlife management
410-586-9711 • scott.knoche@morgan.edu

Richard V. Lacouture
Research Assistant Professor and Director of Education
✓ Phytoplankton Ecology and Taxonomy
✓ Monitoring Programs in the Chesapeake Bay
✓ Harmful Algal Blooms
✓ Environmental Education
410-586-9721 • richard.lacouture@morgan.edu
Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory
Internship Program

How to Apply:
The registration form will be filled out on-line. It is preferred that the transcripts, essay, and 2 letters of recommendation be emailed directly to Richard Lacouture but regular mail is acceptable (see below for addresses).

An application must be completed by the student and contain the following:

- Academic transcripts (unofficial are acceptable)
- Personal essay (2-3 pages)
- 2 letters of recommendation – ask for letters of recommendation early
- Intern Registration Form (1 page)

Essay
As part of the application, each applicant is asked to submit a short personal essay (2-3 pages) outlining past and present interests and academic and non-academic experience. The essay should discuss your special interests, academic and career plans, motives for applying for participation in the Internship Program and how you feel this experience will further your educational and intellectual goals. Be sure to specify up to three researchers whom you are interested in working with in order of preference. We are particularly interested in why you want to participate in this internship program and what you hope to gain through your participation.

Letter of Recommendation
Give the people writing your letters plenty of time to complete them. This is important so they can take the time to give us pertinent information about you.

For full consideration, all of your application materials must be received by March 1st, 2016.

Application materials should be submitted to:

Richard Lacouture
Morgan State University
Patuxent Environmental & Aquatic Research Laboratory
10545 Mackall Rd
St Leonard, MD 20685

Phone: 410.586.9721
Email: richard.lacouture@morgan.edu