Undergraduate Research Assistant: Applied Ecology and Forest Health

An undergraduate research assistant position is available in the lab of Dr. Steve Chhin in the Department of Forestry at Michigan State University (MSU).

The undergraduate assistant will primarily conduct field and laboratory work for a project funded by the USDA Forest Service (Forest Health Protection program). The objective of this project is to promote field-based application of non-destructive technologies that will allow rapid, early detection of emerald ash borer (EAB) in the Great Lakes region. The undergraduate research assistant will assist with laboratory work (MSU campus) and field sampling (Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan). The research technician will also provide assistance on other applied ecology projects in the Chhin lab. Training and field equipment will be provided.

This position will be for an 8 to 9-month period from December 2013/January 2014 to August 2014. During the Spring 2014 semester, the position will involve working on average 10 hrs/week. During the Summer 2014 semester, the work schedule will be on average 30 hrs/week. The salary offered will depend on prior experience.

Qualifications: All sophomore, junior, or senior students currently enrolled in an academic program at Michigan State University related to forestry, biology, ecology, environmental sciences, entomology or a similarly related natural resource field are welcomed to apply. Preference will be given to applicants that are highly self-motivated and possess a strong work ethic. A background or strong interest in conducting field based research and working in a laboratory environment is desirable. A cumulative GPA greater than 3.0 in undergraduate coursework is preferable. Intensive field sampling will be conducted during the Summer 2014 semester with trips expected to last an average of 2 weeks at a time. Candidates must be willing and able to travel long distances, camp outdoors on occasion, do physically demanding work, and work in hot or otherwise uncomfortable conditions. Applicants must possess a valid driver’s license.

Please submit a cover letter and resume, and contact information of two references. Applications will be considered immediately and continue until the position is filled. To ensure full consideration please submit material by November 29, 2013. Please e-mail all application material to Kaelyn Finley (finleyk5@msu.edu).

For further information, please contact:
Kaelyn Finley
Masters Student
Department of Forestry
Michigan State University
Natural Resources Building
480 Wilson Road, Room 168
East Lansing, MI 48824
Tel: (858) 722-0214
E-mail: finleyk5@msu.edu