

Coastal Ecology and Resilience Internship Summer 2025

The Coastal Studies Institute (CSI) in the College of Integrated Coastal Programs at East Carolina University is seeking a motivated intern for the summer of 2025 to contribute to a project focused on monitoring the impact of sea level rise and local anthropogenic impacts on coastal wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and water quality in coastal North Carolina.

Coastal wetlands and SAV are particularly vulnerable to both global climate change and local natural and anthropogenic disturbances. Coastal wetlands and SAV bear the brunt of coastal storms, are vulnerable to eutrophication from rapidly expanding coastal communities and face an existential threat from sea level rise. The intern chosen for this position will primarily assist with monitoring the interaction of water quality, coastal erosion, and SAV in Currituck Sound to mitigate impacts of local development for NC Department of Transportation and will also assist in monitoring saltwater intrusion and vegetation change in Shackleford Banks for the National Park Service.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assisting with collaborative fieldwork (measuring water quality and SAV in coastal estuaries on boats and conducting vegetation surveys and soil analyses in coastal wetlands).
- Conducting lab analyses of samples.
- Assisting with data entry and analysis and remote sensing.

Qualifications:

- Interest in coastal ecology, with an emphasis on salinity, wetlands, and/or sea level rise.
- Ability to work independently and collaborate within a research team.
- Capability to walk up to 1 mile per day, work on a boat, lift 20-30 lbs, and work in potentially hot, windy conditions with limited sun protection.

Benefits

- The student will become familiar with several ecological fieldwork methods.
- Gain hands-on experience with data collection and analysis.

This position is based at ECU's Outer Banks Campus in the Coastal Studies Institute, located on Roanoke Island in the Banks of North Carolina. This internship will run throughout the summer of 2025 (exact dates are negotiable, but late May to early August preferred). The selected candidate will be expected to work approximately 40 hours per week and the internship will be paid at \$18/hour.