

# Gough Lab Paid Field Positions, 2025

For questions, please contact Chris Gough: [cmgough@vcu.edu](mailto:cmgough@vcu.edu)

## Research Experience for Undergraduates: Climate change and forest disturbance

The Gough Lab ([goughlab.com](http://goughlab.com)) invites VCU students of sophomore or junior status to apply for a National Science Foundation-supported Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) position. During the 8-week field season, an REU collaborator will join a team of VCU researchers studying how climate change and disturbance affect forest ecosystems, while residing at the University of Michigan Biological Station (<https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs>). REUs will engage in the all aspects of the research process, from data collection to publication, learning from a community of students, postdocs, and faculty in a field station environment. Applicants should have the capacity to work independently and on a collaborative team, and be comfortable working full days outdoors and living in rustic housing. Field research experience is a plus but not required. In addition to a stipend, onsite lodging and meals will be provided. Applications should be sent to Dr. Chris Gough, [cmgough@vcu.edu](mailto:cmgough@vcu.edu), **by March 1** and include: 1) a cover letter explaining your interest in the position; 2) resume or curriculum vitae; 3) unofficial transcripts; and 4) one letter of recommendation from a VCU faculty member (sent separately to [cmgough@vcu.edu](mailto:cmgough@vcu.edu)).

## Forest Ecology Field Technician

The Gough Forest Ecology Lab ([goughlab.com](http://goughlab.com)) at Virginia Commonwealth University seeks two paid research technicians for the summer 2025 field season. Technicians will contribute to National Science Foundation and Department of Energy supported research at the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) aimed at advancing understanding of disturbance effects on forest growth and carbon cycling. Summer residence at the Field Station in Pellston, Michigan is required (<https://lsa.umich.edu/umbs>). Onsite housing and meals will be provided. Our lab team and the UMBS community are highly collaborative, with all members expected to enthusiastically participate in group field research activities and lab gatherings. Applicants should submit a cover letter describing how this position is aligned with their interests, a curriculum vita with GPA, and list of 3 references **by March 1** to Chris Gough, [cmgough@vcu.edu](mailto:cmgough@vcu.edu). Required qualifications: Successful completion of coursework in ecology, forestry, environmental studies or related field. Team-oriented field research experience. The capacity to live on site in Michigan. Preferred qualifications: Familiarity with basic forest mensuration. Quantitative and science communication skills. Prior field research experience.

## NASA Student Airborne Research Program Undergraduate Interns

Gough and his lab team will mentor a subset of students participating in the NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP, <https://baeri.org/sarp/>) during summer 2025. The program is exclusively open to juniors. All participants will receive a stipend, travel costs, as well as housing and transportation during the program. The Student Airborne Research Program (SARP) is an eight-week summer internship program for rising-senior undergraduates. With access to one or more NASA Airborne Science Program flying science laboratories, students acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign. The NASA Airborne Science Program

maintains a fleet of aircraft used for studying Earth system processes, calibration/validation of space-borne observations, and prototyping instruments for possible satellite missions. SARP participants assist in the operation of instruments onboard one of these aircraft to sample atmospheric gases and/or to image land and water surfaces in multiple spectral bands. Research areas include atmospheric chemistry, air quality, forest ecology, and ocean biology. Along with airborne data collection, students will participate in taking measurements at field sites. The program culminates with students presenting results of their research conclusions. For an overview of last year's SARP, see: <https://vcu.exposure.co/from-surf-turf-and-sky-nasa-and-vcu-rice-rivers-center-deliver-an-immersive-summer-experience-for-undergraduates>. For more information and to apply: <https://stemgateway.nasa.gov/s/course-offering/a0BSJ000001CQvp/student-airborne-research-program-sarp>. Please note that the application **deadline is January 31**. If you have any questions please reach out to one of the two faculty coordinators, listed below.

### **NASA Student Airborne Research Program Graduate Mentor**

The **NASA Student Airborne Research Program (SARP)**, <https://baeri.org/sarp/>) is a summer internship for rising senior undergraduates that offers hands-on research experience using NASA's airborne science labs, covering areas like **atmospheric chemistry, air quality, forest and wetland ecology, and ocean biology**. The program seeks graduate student mentors with a strong background in either scientific coding, atmospheric chemistry, ocean remote sensing, or terrestrial ecology to support undergraduate SARP interns with their research projects and help foster a collaborative community within the research groups. This mentorship opportunity allows graduate students to enhance their leadership, professional networks, and research and communication skills. **Please submit applications by February 9, 2025**. Contact [stephanie.olaya@nasa.gov](mailto:stephanie.olaya@nasa.gov) with general questions and Chris Gough ([cmgough@vcu.edu](mailto:cmgough@vcu.edu)) if you are interested in mentoring terrestrial ecology SARP interns.



Apply here!

### **UM Biological Station Fellowships for Undergraduate Students**

The University of Michigan Biological Station is seeking applicants for summer 2025 Undergraduate Student Research Fellows program. This eight-week program pairs student fellows with UMBS science mentors for original research in field ecology. This opportunity will provide hands-on training and knowledge-building in analytical, applied field methods, data collection and management, and science communication skills.

Who We Are

The **University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS)** has been home to scientific discovery since its founding in 1909. Our core mission is to serve as a gathering place to learn from the natural world, advance research and education, and inspire action. We

leverage over a century of research and transformative experiences to drive discoveries and solutions to benefit Michigan and beyond.

Students and scientists live and work as a community to learn from nature and place at UMBS, which is one of the nation's largest and longest continuously operating field research stations.

Located in Pellston, Michigan, laboratories, classrooms and cabins along with more than 10,000 acres along Douglas Lake and Burt Lake to support long-term science research and education. Researchers have access to a diversity of ecosystems and natural communities.

### Fellowship Summary

- This is a full-time, residential experience
- The program will run ~June 16 – August 8, 2025
- A stipend of \$5,500, on-site housing and meals will be provided
- Research expenses will be covered
- Students may choose to enroll in a 3-credit UMBS [Summer Term field course](#) (July 1-July 31), while conducting research. Tuition will be covered by this fellowship.
- Fellows will participate in regular meetings with mentors, skill-building workshops and interact with other visiting researchers performing their own research projects at UMBS.

The range of projects is broad and focused on the natural systems and climate change. Student Fellows are encouraged to explore their own interests within the scope of the research program. You will be matched with a mentor and project after you are admitted. To see a selection of 2025 research projects and mentors, visit the [UMBS Student Research Opportunities Site](#).

To Apply:

Application materials are due by March 1, 2025, then on a rolling basis.

Send the following materials in one file (.pdf) to [umbsresearch@umich.edu](mailto:umbsresearch@umich.edu):

- Resume or CV, including a list of relevant courses and research experience
- One-page statement on why you are interested in this opportunity, highlighting experience and specific research interests
- Contact information for two academic or professional references