

## 2021 Microplastics Research Internship

The Shaw Institute is seeking to fill a Research Internship position for the 2021 field season. This is a full-time position requiring a 3-month or 6-month commitment beginning June, 2021.

*NOTE: COVID-19 Requirements:*

*All intern applicants must provide proof of full vaccination for COVID-19 prior to arrival. Additionally, candidates must be willing to comply with COVID safety protocols in the office, laboratory, and work vehicles including wearing masks, social distancing, and regular disinfecting.*

The Shaw Institute is a 501(c)3 nonprofit scientific research organization based in Maine and New York with a mission to improve human and ecological health through innovative science and strategic partnerships. Over three decades, our research on plastics/microplastics, ocean pollution, flame retardants, and climate change has informed public opinion and fueled policy, impacting millions of people in the U.S. and around the world. To learn more about our work, visit [www.shawinstitute.org](http://www.shawinstitute.org).

The Blue Hill Research Center is located on the Blue Hill Peninsula in a unique coastal ecosystem bridging mid-coast and “Downeast” Maine. The area is prime habitat for bald eagles, harbor seals, porpoises, and a rich variety of marine and terrestrial wildlife. Interns will spend the season studying the impacts of plastics/microplastics, microbial pathogens, and climate change on this pristine ecosystem.

This internship is an excellent opportunity for an individual working towards a career in public health, environmental health sciences, marine sciences, ecotoxicology, coastal ecology, environmental conservation, or a related field to gain practical experience in the field and in the laboratory. The ideal candidate will possess a personal interest in environmental health research and a commitment to the mission of the organization.

### Job Description

The Intern will assist the Shaw Institute research staff with the implementation of microplastics research in the mid-coast Maine region. Primary responsibilities will include sample collection and processing in the laboratory, microplastic identification, maintaining a contamination-free laboratory, field sampling, data entry and basic data analysis. The candidate will possess a serious attention to detail and be highly organized. The candidate will be responsible for long-term research and maintaining order in a laboratory with high sample throughput.

### Specific Duties

- Perform sample filtration and conduct visual microscopy to identify and isolate microplastics
- Safely operate and maintain all field and lab equipment and perform calibrations
- Transport samples from collection sites to Blue Hill Research Center
- Collect water samples, field data and perform laboratory assays following established standard operating procedures and protocols
- Maintain proper cleaning and safety procedures in the lab and while collecting data on boat trips
- Assist with data entry and updating of laboratory records, logs, and inventories
- Prepare summaries, reports, fact sheets, and assist with community outreach

- Conduct literature searches, develop background information
- Give a final report/presentation to staff about your experience at the end of your internship
- Communicate and promote the Shaw Institute's research and mission to the public
- Assist with events and other duties relating to the organization's goals and mission

**Reports to:** Heather Richard, Research Projects Coordinator

**Qualifications:**

- Full compliance with Shaw Institute's COVID-19 requirements (see above)
- A BA or BS degree (or in process of finishing a degree program) in ecotoxicology, environmental health sciences, coastal ecology, marine sciences, public health or a related major
- Some field and laboratory experience and a basic knowledge of statistics and database management are required
- Familiarity with environmental sampling and water quality monitoring methods. Applicants must be able to work outside in a variety of environmental conditions
- Ability to work comfortably on a marine research vessel, get dirty, muddy, and wet, and perform hands-on work with a variety of organisms
- Available to work occasional nights and weekends as needed. Attention to detail and the ability to work independently and as a team are a must
- Knowledge of computer software including Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel required. Proficiency in graphics, ArcGIS, and statistical software (STATA, R) is desirable
- Applicant must possess a valid driver's license and a good driving record. Only US citizens or lawful permanent residents should apply
- Position requires some physical activity and applicant should be able to lift up to 40 lbs

**Time Requirements:**

June – August (exact start and end dates TBD) Full-time (40 hours/week); additional hours to be agreed upon by employee and Supervisor.

**Compensation:**

Stipend and shared housing in Blue Hill, Maine. Housing is within walking distance to the Institute. Interns are responsible for all travel expenses and food.

**Deadline to Apply: Position will be open until filled.**

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a cover letter outlining your experience and career objectives, along with your Resume/CV and contact information for three references to:

Heather Richard, Research Projects Coordinator, at [hrichard@shawinstitute.org](mailto:hrichard@shawinstitute.org)  
Indicate "Microplastics Internship, NAME" in the subject line of your email.

No phone calls, please.

Shaw Institute  
PO Box 1652, 55 Main Street Blue Hill, ME 04614  
Website: [www.shawinstitute.org](http://www.shawinstitute.org)

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