

Fort Worth Botanic Garden **Research & Horticulture Intern - Spring 2024**

This paid internship is potentially eligible for university credit. Applicants must work with their advisor/school to ensure that this experience will provide school credit for them. FWBG| BRIT is willing to complete any paperwork required by the applicant's school program.

Duration: February 19th - May 3rd 2024 (flexible, ~10 weeks)

Hours per week: 10 (some weekly flexibility allowed for total of 100 hrs min)

Schedule: Intern will create a regular weekly schedule that fits within 7am-5pm Mon-Fri. Sat and Sun availability at the discretion of staff mentors.

Location: Fully onsite at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden

Reports to: Dr. Brooke Best (Research) and Karen Shuback (Horticulture)

Stipend: \$1500

Application deadline: January 31st

Background

The primary goal of this internship is to assist in data collection before, during, and after a controlled grazing event to measure the short- and long-term impacts on biodiversity, vegetation density, and the prominence of aggressive native and invasive species. Special attention will be given to aggressive native and invasive plant species like wintercreeper vine (*Euonymus fortunei*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*), and greenbriar (*Smilax bona-nox* and *Smilax rotundifolia*). Data collection will include the use of transects, quadrats, iNaturalist, photographs, and monitoring goat grazing preferences.

Candidates must be comfortable collecting data in thick vegetation (including thorny greenbriar and poison ivy), working near goats, and with some manual labor (e.g., setting up and removing fencing). Extensive plant and tree identification knowledge is not required. This is a great opportunity to develop or improve familiarity with both native and invasive plant and tree species. There will also be opportunities to create or assist with the creation of public-facing interpretive content such as signage, display carts, and social media posts and the creation of research data communication products such as scientific posters, oral presentations, or technical reports.

While the internship is slated for 10 weeks between February 19 and May 3, the 100 hours may be distributed unevenly through those weeks. Some weeks may require more or less than 10 hours. Hours are flexible between the hours of 7am and 5pm Mon – Fri, and a semi-regular weekly schedule will be agreed upon prior to starting.

Intern duties & responsibilities

- Collect vegetation data at the direction of Garden staff
- Create long-term photographic monitoring protocols and photograph the project area before, during, and after the controlled grazing event.
- Create at least one data product from project results (poster, presentation, checklist, report, or similar)
- Create at least one personal reflection outreach product (blog post, photo essay, or similar)
- Engage in additional learning opportunities as available (lectures, collecting outings, etc.)

Required education & experience

- Current junior or senior level undergraduate students or recent graduates (Fall/Winter 2023)
- Competency with cloud-based shared workspaces (Google Workspace, Dropbox, and similar) and team messaging software
- Ability to work alongside Garden staff outdoors in Texas in variously hot, humid, cold, rainy, or otherwise unpredictable weather conditions
- Good problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Ability to work independently
- At least 18 years old and able to pass a background check