

Botanical Research Institute of Texas @ Fort Worth Botanic Garden

All Asia TCN Internship – 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: Jan 29, 2024 – April 12, 2024 (10 weeks, date range flexible)

Hours Per Week: 10, Mon-Fri (100 hours total), regular schedule

Stipend: \$1500

Application Deadline: Jan 21, 2024

Reports to: Craig Meyer (Herbarium Digitizing Tech) & Tiana Rehman (Dir. of the Philecology Herbarium)

Primary Goals of Internship:

This internship provides experience working with natural history collections and plant conservation. We strongly encourage applications from students who are members of groups underrepresented in careers related to museums and collections.

Intern duties and responsibilities:

- Curate existing collection materials (specimen digitization, label transcription, georeferencing specimen localities)
- Cultivate relationships with and provide direction to volunteers
- Create at least one data-driven product (e.g., poster, map, checklist, exhibit) and one personal reflection product (e.g., blog post, photo essay, video)
- Present work (independently or with a team)

Required education and experience:

- Upper level (junior or senior) undergraduate students OR recent Bachelor's degree graduates (within past 12 months). Graduate students ineligible.
- Competency with cloud-based shared workspaces (e.g., Google Workspace, Dropbox) and team messaging software
- Willingness to learn community science platforms (e.g., Symbiota)

Additional eligibility qualifications:

- Must be able to perform data entry for a significant portion of the workday
- Must be able to work in cool conditions (68 °F) for extended periods
- Familiarity and willingness to learn about Asia's history, geography, and languages
- Strong problem solving and critical thinking skills
- Independent thinking and ability to work alone
- At least 18 years old and able to pass a background check

The primary role of this position is the digitization of herbarium specimens collected in Asia. This work includes (1) capturing photographs of herbarium specimens using a DSLR camera mounted on a copy stand with external light sources, (2) transcribing label information accurately from these images and

typing them into a database, and (3) interpreting textual location information (e.g. 5 miles S on Hwy 30 from New Brunswick) to infer geo-coordinates.

A little more about the BRIT effort:

This is a collaborative project funded by the National Science Foundation, with each institution contributing their specimens to the effort to mobilize 15 million specimens of Asian plants. The BRIT portion of the project requires databasing and imaging of >36,000 specimens, and georeferencing of 23,000 collection localities.

More about the NSF collaborative project:

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2101884&HistoricalAwards=false