

Unpaid Internship Position

Position Number: 6
Position Title: Aquatic Biology – Wachusett Reservoir Watershed - DCR
Location: West Boylston - Hybrid
Duration: June 2 – August 15, 2025

Brief Description of Internship Position:

Applicants interested in gaining hands-on, real-world, experience in aquatic biology including aquatic invasive species, water quality monitoring, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and fisheries are encouraged to apply for a seasonal internship with the Environmental Quality Section of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection (DCR-DWSP), Wachusett Reservoir Watershed. The candidate selected for this position will work directly with DWSP staff to supplement various fieldwork and data management tasks associated with environmental monitoring data generated for the purposes of water resources protection. The individual will assist with collection of surface water samples in the Wachusett Reservoir and Watershed and learn proper use and maintenance of various field-based environmental monitoring tools. The selected candidate will learn proper collection techniques for various biological constituents in surface waters. Projects include assisting aquatic biologists with surveys of aquatic vegetation in water bodies throughout the watershed, algae and zooplankton identification, and data analysis. Candidates with interest or experience with the R programming environment/Shiny may have the opportunity to participate in data management or application building using these tools.

Description of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist with collection of surface water samples from Wachusett Reservoir and Watershed.
- Assist with surveys of aquatic vegetation, especially invasive species within the reservoir and nearby water bodies.
- Assist with identification of algae and cyanobacteria.
- Assist with various data management tasks associated with environmental datasets.
- Learn proper sampling techniques and use of gear for environmental monitoring.
- Perform routine maintenance on select equipment in accordance with established standard operating procedure

Preferred Knowledge and Skills:

Completed coursework in the biological and/or natural resource sciences (e.g. biology, environmental biology, microbiology, natural resources, fisheries, and related disciplines), knowledge of factors controlling environmental quality, sample collection and/or computational experience. Experience working outdoors and on the water in canoes/kayaks/small boats, identifying flora and fauna using dichotomous keys, recording data in the field. Familiarity with the GIS programming including ESRI ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Online applications, Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Power Point)

Hours per week: 10-15