



**FLATHEAD LAKE  
BIO STATION**  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



## The Ted Smith Internship in Environmental Storytelling at the Flathead Lake Biological Station

### Bio Station Background

The Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) is a world-renowned University of Montana Center of Excellence that conducts ecological research with an emphasis on fresh water, particularly Flathead Lake and its watershed. Located on the east shore of Flathead Lake at Yellow Bay, FLBS facilities are housed on 80 acres and include research laboratories, housing, dining hall, museum and motor pool (including boats). Summer is a vibrant time at FLBS, with students and scientists coming from all over the country and world to learn firsthand about the ecology of the Flathead Watershed.

The Bio Station's interdisciplinary interns reside on-site, where they are introduced to the work of FLBS and visiting faculty and scientists. Interns attend seminars, audit select class presentations, participate in field work and complete independent projects. Interns engage each other, learning from their diverse backgrounds and interests, and have the opportunity to interact with students and researchers from other disciplines, other institutions and even other countries. To foster community and cross-disciplinary interaction, interns also take several research field trips and assist at the Bio Station's public events.

### Job Description

Named for Ted Smith, who devoted his life to safeguarding the natural environment for future generations, the **Ted Smith Internship in Environmental Storytelling** provides an opportunity for a UM graduate student in the Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism program. The intern works with FLBS scientists, learning about the breadth of research at FLBS, and gaining experience in the communication of specific science and its importance to the public through a variety of media outlets.

As a Ted Smith Environmental Storyteller, you will be expected to write, submit and complete at least 5 articles by the end of the 8-week program. The length and focus of each article is largely up to you. You will work directly with the FLBS media and information specialist to strategically integrate these articles into FLBS communications and promotion. Previous interns have had stories featured in regional magazines and on the front pages of regional newspapers. You will receive full ownership and byline credit for every article you complete during your time here. Potential topics for articles include:

- Exploring the Bio Station's storied history as 'Sentinel of the Lake.'
- Investigating the Bio Station's technological advancements of environmental DNA in the fight to prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (e.g., zebra/quagga mussels) from infesting Montana waters.
- FLBS research features, such as highlighting the Bio Station's transboundary watershed research and conservation efforts, or examining the advancements the Bio Station has made in the field of river ecology.
- Human interest or research profiles on Bio Station faculty, scientists, students and interns.

## Supervisors

**Tom Bansak**, *Freshwater Ecologist and 5ggVUHY Director, Flathead Lake Biological Station*  
**Nadia White**, *Director Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism Master's Program*



## Employment Type and Duration

Full Time (40 hours/week)  
6/19/2022 to 8/12/2022

## Compensation

\$9.20/hour  
Room and board at FLBS provided  
(\$2500 approximate value)

## Required Documents

Resume  
Cover Letter  
Unofficial transcript

## Qualification

Have completed at least one year of UM's Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism graduate program

## To Apply

Send your application materials to Tom Bansak, Assistant Director, Flathead Lake Biological Station at:  
[tom.bansak@umontana.edu](mailto:tom.bansak@umontana.edu); or  
32125 Bio Station Lane, Polson, MT 59860

**Application Deadline:** February 18, 2022

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## For More Information

Tom Bansak, Assistant Director, Flathead Lake Biological Station  
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