



32125 Bio Station Ln, Polson, Montana, U.S.A. 59860
(406) 872-4500
<https://flbs.umt.edu>

Paid Summer Internship (40 hours per week)

Job Title:

Freshwater Ecology Intern

Compensation:

\$10.85 per hour plus room and board (valued at \$3000)

Dates:

June 15- August 6, 2026

Internship Description:

- This intern will be working with Dr. Rachel Malison and her team to assist with water quality monitoring programs and stream ecology projects in western Montana. Primarily, the intern will assist with our Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSPP). This program is a collaborative effort to improve water quality by reducing pesticide pollution in freshwaters. A large effort is underway to collect water samples to analyze for pesticides from water bodies in 12 counties of Montana to understand baseline water quality conditions.
- The intern will engage with many different partners as part of education and outreach, project implementation, and monitoring efforts.
- The intern will help with water quality sample collection, collect YSI meter data, and assist with data entry.
- The intern will assist with education and outreach events, as well as help develop educational materials for the public.
- The intern will also have the opportunity to engage with our Monitoring Montana Waters program, as well in other ongoing stream ecology research activities. If interested (and if experienced in coding), there are opportunities for the intern to help analyze existing datasets and participate as a co-author in a publication.
- The internship will provide opportunities to gain valuable knowledge of stream and floodplain ecology. The intern will learn water quality sampling techniques, sampling design, as well as other stream ecology sampling techniques (e.g. macroinvertebrate sampling).
- The intern will gain skills in data entry and management, as well as designing and creating outreach and educational materials. By engaging in the PSPP and MMW programs the intern will learn about linking monitoring, research and education and outreach efforts to help protect our waters.
- There is the opportunity to gain experience in scientific writing as well.
- The intern will have the opportunity to experience other research efforts and meet other students, researchers and professionals, as well as attend seminars and experience other research projects. The intern will engage with the entire team, joining weekly lab meetings, interacting with a full-time research coordinator and Big Sky Watershed Corps members, in addition to Dr. Malison.

Qualifications:

- Must be a continuing undergraduate student
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- Applicants should be mature, hardworking individuals with good organizational skills and attention to detail. They should work well as part of a team, have a positive attitude, and a desire to learn.
- Applicants should be in good health and be capable of hiking in rough terrain and wading in streams, as well as be comfortable conducting fieldwork regardless of the weather.
- Applicants must be comfortable carrying bear spray and willing to follow bear safety protocol when in the field.
- Previous lab or field experience is desirable but not required.
- Applicant must have a driver's license and be able to drive.
- Minimum requirements include the completion of at least 4 total semesters in biology, chemistry, environmental science, or equivalent.

How to Apply (application deadline: Feb 22, 2026):

UM students: use Handshake; search for Flathead Lake Biological Station

Non-UM students: send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for two references to Monica Elser at monica.elser@flbs.umt.edu