EPSCoR E-RISE WiCCED Salt
Summer Undergraduate Internships 2026

Project Title: Assessing the economic impacts of salt marsh migration on Delaware agriculture
Dates of Internship: June, 1 – August, 14 (A vacation week is negotiable with faculty member, Approximately 10 weeks total)
Estimated Stipend: $6,000
Number of Positions Available: 1
Schedule: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. Exact hours may vary. Schedules can be negotiated with the faculty mentor. Approximately 35 hours a week.
Location: 025 Townsend Hall, Newark, DE
Faculty Mentor: Leah Palm-Forster (leahhp@udel.edu)
Staff/Lab Technician Mentor (if applicable): Chila Inocencio (ainocen@udel.edu)
Apply Here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIpCejW0jhmaDzp5q9JuzKV2NusrIMMs8ieQKX2DdkUiNs6g/viewform?usp=dialog

About the WiCCED Salt Project: WiCCED Salt is an interdisciplinary research project addressing saltwater intrusion in Delaware. Saltwater intrusion into freshwater resources and ecosystems increasingly threatens not only coastal communities in Delaware but also regions worldwide. Saltwater pollutes drinking water, and its landward intrusion alters coastal ecosystems, destroys the arability of croplands, and corrodes pipes, tanks and other infrastructures. The negative effects of saltwater intrusion can also be indirect, such as when salinity reduces the carbon-sequestering ability of ecosystems. In response to these needs, the partner institutions of Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, Goldey-Beacom College, Wilmington University, and University of Delaware are developing WiCCED Salt–a network of people, institutions, data, and technological innovations to advance our scientific understanding of physical risks related to saltwater intrusion and human decision making in response to such risks.

Role Description:
WiCCED Salt is seeking a motivated undergraduate student to assist with a research project focused on salt marsh migration and its impacts on agricultural land in Delaware. Salt marshes provide important benefits such as flood

protection and wildlife habitat, but their movement inland due to sea level rise can negatively impact productive farmland. This project explores how conservation programs could support both healthy marshes and farmer livelihoods. The intern will help collect, organize, and manage GIS data and other datasets, including maps of current and future salt marsh areas and agricultural land use. The student will assist with basic data analysis, data visualization, and map creation, and they will support other research tasks (e.g., literature reviews). Through this position, the student will gain hands-on experience with GIS, data management, and applied economics research. The project offers an opportunity to learn how spatial data can be used to inform real-world conservation and land-use decisions in coastal regions.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Collect, organize, and manage GIS and other datasets
- Assist with basic GIS analysis, mapping, and data visualization
- Participate in project-wide activities, including presenting at a final internship poster presentation and attending professional development events.

Skills and Qualifications:

- Experience with GIS and familiarity with R software preferred

Hiring Timeline:

- Applications Close: March 16, 2026
- Interviews: End of March/Early April
- Offers Extended: Mid-late April

Please note that dates are subject to change depending on the needs of the project.

How to Apply:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIpCejW0jhmaDzp5q9JuzKV2NusrlMMs8ieQKX2DdkUiNs6g/viewform?usp=dialog