The BEAST Lab (Biodiversity and Environments Across Space and Time) is looking to recruit a two graduate students for **Fall, 2024:**

1) M.S. Position: Systems Approaches to Understanding the New Arctic: This position is funded by the SAUNNA NRT program at the University of Maine. This interdisciplinary program focuses on training scientists in complex systems approaches to Arctic research, including connections between the Arctic and other regions (e.g., New England). You can read more about the curriculum, which includes a Greenland field experience, here. Due to funding restrictions, this fellowship may only be awarded to a US citizen or permanent resident.

2) M.S. or Ph.D. Position: This open position will be funded by a teaching assistantship (to start; I'd love to work with eligible candidates on a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship over this summer), with summer funding provided by a research assistantship.

The BEAST Lab is managed by Jacquelyn Gill (she/her), Associate Professor of Paleoecology at the University of Maine. Research in the BEAST lab links biogeography, community ecology, paleoecology, and conservation biology to address how biodiversity responds to climate change and extinction. Our work includes paleoecological reconstructions from sediment cores and other archives, community and trait-based assessments of modern plant communities, and quantitative approaches to assess past and present biodiversity patterns and dynamics (e.g., dynamic vegetation models, species distribution models). Potential projects include (but are not limited to):

- Understanding the resilience of Arctic and alpine plant communities (past and present) using trait-based approaches
- Caribou and/or muskox impacts in Greenland and/or Maine (past and present)
- Arctic-Gulf of Maine paleoclimate teleconnections and their impacts on plants, people, and fire through time
- Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions and their consequences for present-day Arctic biodiversity
- Long-term records of seabirds and their influence on terrestrial ecosystems in the Arctic and/or the Gulf of Maine

The successful applicants will be housed in the Climate Change Institute and the School of Biology and Ecology. Dr. Gill can accept students through the Masters of Quaternary and Climate Studies, the Ecology and Environmental Studies program (MS and PhD), and the Biological Sciences graduate program (MS and PhD). The successful candidate will be able to pursue a research question of their choice that aligns with the BEAST Lab's research and the NRT program goals (for the SAUNNA-funded position). Both positions are fully funded, including tuition, a stipend, and health benefits. The BEAST Lab enthusiastically supports work-life balance, non-academic careers, and science communication and outreach. We strive to be an accessible, feminist, antiracist, anticolonial, and LGBTQIA+-affirming lab, and welcome applicants of all ages, backgrounds, and career interests. Dr. Gill is happy to answer any questions you might have in advance of applying, and recommends that prospective applicants

read this blog post.

Interested applicants should submit the following materials by **Friday, 5/24** to jacqueyn.gill@maine.edu:

- A cover letter (can be the email itself) briefly outlining your interest and fit for this position (including your interest in interdisciplinary training) and how it relates to your career goals.
- CV
- A 1-page statement outlining 1-3 potential project ideas, including any research questions, ecosystems, and tools you are interested in working with.