



## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT EL VERDE FIELD STATION UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO, RIO PIEDRAS

**Position:** Tropical forest research experience - Tree census data entry and GIS mapping intern

**Dates:** Early October 2023 – December 22nd 2023, exact dates TBD.

**Position Description:** The Department of Environmental Studies of the University of Puerto Rico - Río Piedras and the Luquillo Long-Term Ecological Research Program (LUQ-LTER) are hiring up to six (6) full time interns to assist in field and data management work, under the supervision of LUQ-LTER Staff. The Luquillo site entered the [LTER program](#) in 1988 to study the long-term effects of natural and human disturbances on tropical forests and streams in the Luquillo Experimental Forest. The program has a collaborative focus in which many scientists from diverse disciplines share efforts and data to better understand the dynamics of ecosystem processes.

LUQ-LTER is carrying out a tree census in the 16-ha Luquillo Forest Dynamics Plot (LFDP) in El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. After 2 years of effort, we are approaching the end of the census and are seeking assistance with wrap up tasks. The intern will be primarily charged with data entry and digitizing of tree census maps in ArcGIS Pro. There will also be regular opportunities for field work in the forest to field check data, prepare the plot for the next tree census and a spring seedling census, and assist with other long-term monitoring projects or field experiments. Training will be provided in the census protocol, tree species ID, ArcGIS Pro, and data management tasks.

Interns will be expected to work independently on data entry tasks, and together in a small team of 2-3 people under the supervision of a Lead Technician and/or the LUQ-LTER Staff in the field. Interns will be expected to work in challenging field conditions (e.g., warm, humid climate with high rainfall; steep and muddy areas) and spend multiple hours a day hiking in the forest (8am - 4 pm, Mon-Fri, with weekends free). While in El Yunque, interns will have the opportunity to learn about diverse aspects of tropical ecology and meet and interact with various scientists involved in the Luquillo Long-Term Ecological Research Program. Please see the Luquillo LTER website [here](#) for more information about the program.

**Stipend:** \$1300 per month to cover food and living expenses. Housing may be available on a case-by-case basis. Note that we are unable to provide medical insurance.

**Qualifications:** Current senior undergraduate students or recent college graduates with background in biology, ecology, or environmental science. We seek applicants with field-work experience, knowledge of plant identification, and excellent organizational skills and attention to detail. Experience working outdoors in tropical ecosystems is useful but is not required. Experience with Microsoft Office programs and Google Sheets is strongly recommended. Experience with ArcGIS Pro or other GIS software is beneficial.

We are a bilingual working group and both English and Spanish speakers are welcome. Applicants without all the resources or experience listed are still encouraged to apply.

**To Apply:** Please compile the following materials into a single document and send a single email to [lfdp@ites.upr.edu](mailto:lfdp@ites.upr.edu). Review of applications will begin on **September 8, 2023** and continue until positions are filled. Please include “Tree Census Intern Fall 2023” and your name in the subject line and ensure that your file contains your first and last name as part of the file name.

- 1) A letter of interest indicating why you wish to work in the tropical forest and describing your relevant experience.
- 2) Full resume
- 3) Contact information for two references.

Please contact us at [lfdp@ites.upr.edu](mailto:lfdp@ites.upr.edu) with any further questions.