**Position Title**

Summer Pate Fellow, Stefanie Whitmire’s Research Group

**Project Title**

Impacts of microplastics on the environment.

**About the Project**

Stefanie Whitmire’s research group integrates aquatic ecology, biogeochemistry, and impacts of emerging contaminants like microplastics. As a summer fellow, you will join the Whitmire Lab group working on understanding distribution, impacts, and potential sources of microplastics in coastal environments.

**What You’ll Do**

As a Pate fellow, you will assist with ongoing microplastic studies. The fellow will be responsible for assisting with sediment and water sampling from coastal systems, like stormwater ponds. Part of the internship will include the deployment and setup of field and mesocosm experiments. The fellow will gain experience in microplastic separation from environmental samples, water quality analyses (nutrients, chla, total organic carbon, total suspended solids, etc.), and learn to run the laser direct infrared spectrophotometer to determine particle polymer type. The fellow will engage with an interdisciplinary team of researchers, learn best management practices for conducting field research, including data organization and interpretation, gain hands-on experience with both field and laboratory analysis, and enhance analytical and problem-solving skills.

You will be hosted at the **Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science (BICEFS)** near Georgetown, SC. Part of Clemson University, this institute fosters a dynamic research environment focused on coastal ecosystem studies, with strengths in forest ecology, hydrology, and wildlife management. Fellows benefit from a collaborative atmosphere and ample resources for field and lab work.

**Preferred Qualifications**

* Interest in environmental science, ecology, or a related field.
* Willingness to work in outdoor settings (heat, humidity, insects) and the lab.
* Strong communication skills and attention to detail.
* Ability to work both independently and collaboratively.
* Previous laboratory experience necessary.