

Undergraduate Research Assistant Position: Plant Mapping & Quantitative Data Work Environment, Culture, and Community Research Group

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Position Overview

The Environment, Culture, and Community Research Group is seeking a motivated undergraduate student to join an exciting project focused on culture plant species in Atlanta based forests and quantitative data organization and literature review related to ongoing projects. This position offers hands-on experience in geospatial mapping and analysis, ecological research, and urban food systems under the mentorship of Dr. Mucioki.

This is a remote position requiring 10 hours per week at \$15 per hour, running from January 5, 2026 through June 2026. The successful candidate will have prior geospatial skills needed to successfully complete this work in ArcGIS without additional training. They should also have prior skills in quantitative data organization and basic analysis using software like Excel, R, or Stata. Example work in these areas are suggested to demonstrate skills at time of application.

Application deadline: November 24th

Interviews of selected candidates week of December 1st

RA duration: January 2026-June 2026

Position Responsibilities

- Aggregating occurrence data on culturally significant plants in Atlanta forests from open-source resources like iNaturalist, GBIF, SouthEast Regional Network of Expertise and Collection, etc.
- Working with Emory Center for Digital Scholarship to identify further geospatial data and layers that might be pertinent to visualization and future analysis
- Developing a digital map that displays culturally significant plant occurrence data in select Atlanta based forests
- Organizing quantitative data related to other projects
- Literature review to contribute to developing papers
- Other work as needed based on ECC projects and needs
- Working in collaboration with Dr. Mucioki through weekly meetings and other communications

Required Qualifications

- Current undergraduate student at Emory University working in Environmental Sciences or closely related discipline

- Demonstrated proficiency in in GIS software, including ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online. Sample work, experience, and skills required. Related coursework in GIS.
- Skills or ability to learn quantitative data organization and cleaning skills with Excel. Prior experience using Excel.
- This position requires someone who can work independently and manage their time effectively, with strong problem-solving and troubleshooting abilities.
- It requires someone that has time in their schedule to produce high quality work and focus on the work for the hours required each week.
- Excellent attention to detail and organizational skills are essential, as is being self-motivated with the initiative to ask questions and seek solutions creatively.
- Candidates must have access to a computer capable of running GIS and Excel or the ability to use software on University computers.

Preferred Qualifications

- We especially welcome applicants with backgrounds and related knowledge and passion in ecology, forestry, botany, or ethnobotany.

Application Requirements

Interested students should submit a complete application package including a resume that highlights relevant coursework and experience. The cover letter, limited to one page, should describe your interest in this position, your relevant skills and experience particularly in ArcGIS and data analysis, and your ability to work independently.

A critical component of your application is an example of your work. Include at least one product you have created in ArcGIS and a brief description explaining the project context and your specific role in creating the product.

Applications should be submitted to megan.mucioki@emory.edu by November 24th. Selected candidates will be invited to participate in an interview with Dr. Mucioki the week of December 1st.