

Internship opportunities in the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science at Conservation International

Conservation International is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1987 with a mission “to conserve our living heritage, our global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies can live in harmony with nature.” The three pillars of the organization are science, partnerships, and human welfare, and to support the first of these the organization created the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS), in 1999, with a generous gift from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

CABS now employs more than 70 scientific, technical, and administrative staff, with an annual budget of ~\$16m. The division has recently completed a strategic planning process, which organized scientific research in CABS and CI generally around three themes: “Tracking nature’s pulse” (i.e., underlying biodiversity science); “Understanding threats to identify opportunities” (i.e., analysis of threats, global changes, natural benefits, and society), and “Delivering conservation strategies” (i.e., making science useful and accessible to conservation practice). All CABS research is conducted to be equally relevant in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biomes.

With this strategy in mind, CABS is now developing a partnership with Texas A&M University’s NSF-IGERT program in Applied Biodiversity Science (ABS) to provide training opportunities to students to undertake internships in CI. These internships are envisioned to last between 3 months and 1 year, and to be supervised by professional staff within CABS in collaboration with ABS faculty. Geographic location in the CI headquarters in Crystal City, Virginia, is preferred, and funding is available within the ABS program to cover the costs of such placements.

Topics likely to be available for intern research under the ABS partnership include the following general areas:

- Rapid field survey of biodiversity in sites of high survey priority
- Comprehensive IUCN Red List assessment of the status of select species groups
- Repeat assessments to contribute to the Red List Index
- Analysis of threats to biodiversity, such as habitat destruction and climate change
- Monitoring of global change through tropical forest field stations
- Analysis of the political and macro-economic drivers of biodiversity change
- Analysis of the multiple benefits delivered to humanity by biodiversity conservation
- Analysis of the efficacy of tactics for conservation implementation
- Establishment of global scale priorities for biodiversity conservation
- Support to the targeting of biodiversity conservation outcomes
- Communication of conservation science
- Development of conservation science networks and capacity-building
- Development of innovative conservation science tools
- Scientific review to conservation resource allocation

If interested, please contact Will Turner [w.turner@conservation.org].