Joshua Tree Mycorrhizal Fungi Research

General Information

Supervisor: Juniper Harrower (PHD Candidate)

- Email: jharrower@ucsc.edu
- # of interns need/ hours: 1-2 interns/6-12 hours
- Quarters Needed: Fall & Winter

Description of Internship

Intern(s) will assist in a project to determine what role mycorrhizal fungi play in helping Joshua trees adapt to climate change. Joshua trees are threatened by climate change in Joshua Tree National Park, and they have an unknown fungal community that could be important in helping their seedlings survive and/or establish in new areas. For this project, joshua tree seedlings have been inoculated with fungi, harvested across multiple time points and dried. Intern(s) will weigh and grind Joshua tree plant material which will be sent to the UC Davis analytical lab for analysis to determine if the different fungi help plants grow larger, or better acquire key nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium). Additionally, interns will be expected to read key literature and write a short research paper about the project. There is also potential for exciting art outreach possibilities with this project if the intern is interested!

Prerequisites

Must have a strong attention to detail as you will be working with very a large number of important samples, and you must be able to keep everything organized. Must be able to work independently and complete the required number of hours weekly. Strong academic record preferred but if you have weak spots in your transcripts please provide an explanation why.