RESTORATION RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Agency:** Graduate Student Research
- **Sponsor:** Justin Luong, ENVS Grad Student
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- **Address:** 1156 High St, Santa Cruz CA 95064 - ENVS Mail Stop
- **Website:** justinluong.com
- **Number of Interns/Hrs:** 3 5-unit internships MAX or 5 2-unit MAX interns or a mix
- **Quarters Needed:** Spring and Summer
- **Keep on File for 1 year**

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

I am studying how knowledge about plant functional traits and phylogenetics can inform ecological restoration. Restoration has unpredictable outcomes. This is likely to become exacerbated by climate change because of precipitation variability. My study site is at Younger Lagoon Reserve at the UCSC Coastal Campus and utilizes rain-out shelters that simulate extreme droughts. This spring I will need assistance collecting plant community composition and plant functional trait information for 12 CA coastal prairie plant species. We will determine functional traits such as specific leaf area (SLA), major vein length per unit area (VLA), and leaf thickness.

No experience is required. If you are interested contact me at jluong4@ucsc.edu with a brief overview of your academic history, any relevant prior experience, and why you are interested.

Students will record data in the field and assist with collecting leaf samples for functional trait analysis. Students may also have to assist with plot maintenance, which could include weeding, reconstructing infrastructure or planting. Students will be trained to use ImageJ for SLA and VLA and use a digital micrometer for measuring leaf thickness. Students will also be trained to prepare samples for elemental and isotope analysis (e.g. 13C and 15N). Students will be required to read scientific literature to gain a better understanding of the theoretical framework used for the research project. Students should be comfortable working outdoors and in a lab setting. Students that have not completed basic lab safety training will be required to do so.