

Small Mammal Undergraduate Research in the Forest (SMURF) Internship



What is SMURF?

The SMURF program is a collaboration between graduate students, the Natural History Museum, and the UC Natural Reserve System that monitors long-term small mammal population dynamics in the UCSC Natural Reserves. SMURF interns trap small mammals every quarter and use the data to examine environmental and ecological questions.

Description of intern positions:

We offer 2-unit and 5-unit internship. All first-time interns must take the 2-unit course, which is an introduction to small mammal surveying and handling, data entry and management, and project organization. After completing the 2-unit course, interns can advance to the 5-unit course for the following quarter. The 5-unit course focuses on designing and conducting a research project, data analysis, scientific writing, and public speaking in addition to the further development of field skills.

Requirements for all interns:

- Capable of working outdoors during hot or cold weather
- Comfortable handling rodents
- Willingness to be exposed to poison oak and ticks
- Capable of lifting and carrying ~20lbs of weight
- Excellent communication and team work skills
- Must be available to attend all trapping sessions on 2 or 3 weekends (dates TBD)

Requirements for 5-unit interns only:

- Some background in scientific writing and statistics
- Ability to work independently and formulate new ideas
- A passion for conducting research in biology

How to Apply: Please email **Alex Jones** (asjones@ucsc.edu), **Joe Miller** (joemiller@ucsc.edu), AND **Anna Nisi** (anisi@ucsc.edu) with the following materials:

- resume/CV including your year, major, GPA, and college
- Class/work schedule
- Brief paragraph describing your academic/career goals and what you hope to gain from this experience.