

## Paid undergraduate technician posts for marine climate change project

Deadline for submissions: 24<sup>th</sup> November 6pm

### Overview

Dr Coleen Suckling is new faculty in CELS and is looking to recruit two reliable and enthusiastic undergraduate students to support the latest of funded research.

The project will use the Bay campus marine aquarium facilities to manipulate carbon dioxide and temperature conditions predicted for the year 2100. Under these conditions the survival, growth, physiology, feeding behavior (on *Mytilus edulis*) and energetic requirements of key east coast shellfish predators will be measured. The project will conduct two trials, one after the other, with one focusing on crabs (*Cancer irroratus*) and the other on starfish (*Asteria forbesi*).



### Post holder responsibilities

The roles of the undergraduate post holders will be variable and may depend on their previous skill sets. Generally, the undergraduate technical post holders will assist in the field collection and husbandry of crabs and starfish to be used in the study and support the development of the aquaria in preparation for the experiments (November to January). Trials will begin towards the end of January and the technical post holders main responsibilities will be the husbandry and feeding of the animals and monitoring and recording the aquarium seawater parameters. Seawater carbonate chemistry measurements (pH and total alkalinity) and sample preservation (for nutrient analysis) will be conducted and data entered into shared project spreadsheets and backed up. Some assistance in physiological measurements may be required (e.g. oxygen consumption). The post holders will run preliminary trials and conduct much of the behavioral recordings (using webcams), uploading of data and recording behavioral traits from video footage.

### Applicant criteria

Coleen is seeking ideally 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduate technical support, or undergraduates with exceptional relevant skill sets to help deliver the project from the end of November 2018 through to the end of May 2019. Students who can work outside of the main teaching period (e.g. between Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> and spring breaks) and / or take part in a rotating shift for early morning and weekend aquarium checks are particularly encouraged to apply. Some field collections may also need to be carried out during the weekends. The students will work 10-14 hours per week and these hours can increase outside of the teaching period (see dates above).

**Essential skills** include marine animal handling and husbandry, monitoring of seawater parameters and the use and handling of aquatic systems. Must have demonstrable experience of checking and entering data into spreadsheets to be shared by multiple users. The applicant must demonstrate reliability, excellent time and project management skills to show that they can successfully deliver in their studies as well as the project responsibilities. Applicants should also

demonstrate good communication skills and the ability to work well independently and within a team. Must have own transport to get to aquarium facilities and to the Kingston campus for update meetings.

**Desirable skills** include experience of utilizing aquaria to manipulate parameters (e.g. carbon dioxide/ temperature), aquatic experimental design, measuring physiological parameters (e.g. oxygen consumption and acid base status) and /or recording animal behavior and the use of video recording devices, and AAUS scientific diving qualified with dry suit diving experience and/or be willing to snorkel for sample collections (providing a swim test can be successfully completed with the URI diving unit).

### **Applicant instructions**

All applicants must send a 1) CV no more than 1.5 - 2 pages long and 2) cover letter (no more than 1.5 - 2 pages long) describing any relevant skill sets, what the applicant aims to gain from the opportunity, what motivates them and how this opportunity will help with their study/career goals. Applications must be sent to Coleen Suckling directly via email ([coleensuckling@uri.edu](mailto:coleensuckling@uri.edu)). Additionally applicants will need to ensure that their Faculty Advisor or an instructor familiar with their work contact Dr Coleen Suckling directly by email to receive a link to complete a short survey style letter of support for each applicant. Short informal interviews will be conducted via Skype shortly after this date and the posts will commence as soon as possible following interviews. Coleen Suckling has set up a number of short meeting opportunities for Friday November 16<sup>th</sup> to address any questions prospective applicants may have about these positions, after which she will be conducting research in the UK and have limited time to offer for phone/skype meetings. Please visit this link (<https://doodle.com/poll/afm7h3kk4rhcac9r>) to book a 10 minute appointment.