

USGS Brown Treesnake Project, Ritidian Point Paid Student Internships



Project Overview:

The Brown Treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) was accidentally introduced to the island of Guam in cargo shipments post-WWII. The introduction of this invasive predator resulted in the extinction and extirpations of most native vertebrate species on Guam. Control of the Brown Treesnake (BTS) is vital today in efforts to protect remaining native species and to provide future opportunities for the reintroduction of extirpated species. The Invasive Species Science Branch of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has ongoing research on Guam developing control and containment methods for BTS.

Skills to be gained by the Intern:

- Identification, handling, trapping, and necropsy of snakes, geckos, lizards, frogs, and rodents
- Learn concepts central to invasive species ecology, conservation biology, island ecology, experimental design
- Opportunities to learn from resource management professionals
- Gain practical skills and experience for future career development, especially in invasive species management

Position Description:

Up to two (2) paid positions are available from June – September 2020 with the potential for extensions until December 31. Position openings are subject to available funds, our ability to find suitable candidates, and current restrictions related to Covid-19. Students will be trained to conduct fieldwork for all ongoing projects. Fieldwork includes the hand capture of live snakes, collection of morphological data, preparation and maintenance of materials and equipment for experiments, preparation of study sites, handling of live and dead specimens, and laboratory work. Study site preparation may require the use of brush cutting equipment, power saws, and other equipment. Duties also include laboratory work and care of lab animals. Work is to be performed during both early mornings and at night, including nighttime visual surveys that may continue until midnight. Some weekend work will be necessary and individual workdays may exceed 8 hours. Students should expect to work 30-40 hours a week during summer months when classes are not in session, with the potential for part-time work during the ensuing semester. Research credits may be available through University of Guam.

Qualifications:

Undergraduate or graduate-level students interested in applying should have a background in the biological sciences and an interest in field biology. Applicants will need excellent (corrected) eyesight, health and physical stamina, a strong work ethic and the ability to work within a research team. Applicants must be able to walk over rough terrain, carry up to 50 lbs of equipment, and have a tolerance of mosquito and spider infested areas. *The meticulous collection of field data is required while adhering to scientific and safety protocols.* Applicants must be able to drive a government vehicle and have a clean driving record. A background check will be required for access to military lands. Students must be English speaking.



For More Information and To Apply:

Interested individuals can send application material including a resume, 3-5 references, a cover letter expressing interest, and transcripts to Scott Goetz at sgoetz@usgs.gov, preferably by 01 May 2020. Please contact Scott with any additional questions.

