

Professors Rob Bills and Christopher Smith at Willamette University are seeking multiple summer research students to participate in a 9-week field and laboratory experience from May 17, 2024 - Jul 15, 2024. Research projects will focus on the ecology, evolution, and genetics of Yuccas and their symbionts. Students will have the opportunity to select and design their own research projects within the constraints of the study system and laboratory resources. Potential topic areas include questions in bioinformatics, climate change, ecology and diversity of mycorrhizal fungi, phylogenetics, plant physiology, population ecology, and population genetics.

More information and project resources can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ToCRQ8KNmqI5aJd_fSozevHtrJxIwHh5?usp=drive_link

The program will begin with a 2-week field experience in the Mojave Desert, followed by six weeks in the lab at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. Participants will receive a stipend, plus housing, meals, and travel expenses.

Participants should be currently enrolled as degree-seeking students at the undergraduate level in a 2- or 4-year institution and should have past coursework at the college-level in biology or an allied field. Participants should be prepared to work in a desert environment during late spring weather, walking up to ten miles per day over uneven terrain while carrying a backpack.

Interested students should submit an application via the following google form:

<https://forms.gle/Yyuy25oyCpmSfQ7y8>

The application should include an unofficial transcript, a resume or CV, the names and contact information for three professional references, and an essay of not more than 1000 words describing both a proposed research topic (links to relevant papers and resources are provided on the application page) and how participating will promote the applicant's career goals. The strongest applications will show evidence of having reviewed the relevant literature and that the internship will promote the applicant's long-term career goals.

Willamette University is a diverse environment composed of people with various ethnic, racial, gender, and sexual identities, including English language learners and large LGBTQ+, international student populations, as well as many first generation college students. Applicants will be required to submit a statement describing how they will strengthen this community.