Title: Undergraduate Student Assistantship in temporal plant persistence
Location: Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana, USA
Compensation: 1-2 undergraduate research credits
Application deadline: January 23, 2026

      The Conservation Ecology and Biogeography Lab (aka, Borokini lab) in the Ecology Department at Montana State University seeks one undergraduate student to help fit generalized linear mixed models (GLMMs) on traits measured for three years on seven native plants across 16 meadows along elevational gradient in Yellowstone National Park. Traits measured included plant height, abundance, flower number, and phenology, and explanatory variables to be considered include soil volumetric water content, soil temperature, soil pH, nitrogen, carbon content, and various climatic variables.

      The undergraduate student will conduct GLMMs on each of the seven studied species to investigate temporal plant performance along elevational and hydrological gradients. The student is expected to register for 1-2 credits in either BIOE 490R or BIOE 492. This project can also be used as undergraduate thesis, if applicable. The position begins on January 26, 2026.

      Research in the Borokini lab focuses broadly on spatiotemporal distribution of plant diversity and identifying the eco-evolutionary processes driving biodiversity patterns. An integration of spatial, ecological, and phylogenetic data, gathered through a combination of field observations, herbarium studies, laboratory methods, and long-term comparative experiments, are used to answer relevant questions. More information is available at https://tbisrael.wixsite.com/website. The Borokini Lab has mentored about 12 undergraduate research assistants over the last two years, resulting in one published paper, one paper in preparation, and several conference presentations, with the undergraduate students being the main presenters or included as co-authors.

Qualifications: Applicants should be juniors or seniors in Ecology, LRES, PSPP, Math and Statistics, or related departments or academic units in Life Sciences at Montana State University. Preference will be given to students who have appreciable knowledge and experience in regression analyses in R statistical software and RStudio IDE. Candidates must have strong written and oral communication skills, an ability to learn quickly, and to work under minimal supervision.

Contact: To apply, please send an email with the subject "Undergraduate Student Assistantship Application" to: Dr. Israel Borokini (israel.borokini@montana.edu) that contains the following: (1) one-page personal statement describing your academic and research experience, future career plans, and how this position fits with your career plans, (2) resume, and (3) unofficial copy of university transcripts. Inquiries about the positions are welcome.