Faculty Research Assistant – Coastal Ecology

An opening is available for a Faculty Research Assistant (FRA) in the laboratory of Dr. Lora Harris at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, part of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Research involves diverse activities in field work, laboratory, and numerical analysis related to coastal ecology.

The primary purpose of this position will be 1) to coordinate and carry out a long term (30 years) water quality monitoring program in shallow tidal creeks near the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, 2) participate in other ongoing research projects involving varied field work aboard small boats, in wetlands, and sampling streams, 3) carry out some laboratory analysis, especially incubations for photosynthesis and respiration, and 4) provide essential support to Dr. Harris with data analysis, GIS, figure and report preparation. Field work requires experience trailering and handling small boats, as well as calibration, maintenance, and deployment of water quality sondes and light sensors. Desirable laboratory skills include exposure to primary production measurements, dissolved oxygen sensors, and processing of water samples for pigment and nutrient analyses. Some experience with numerical analysis is emphasized, in particular manipulation of large datasets, familiarity with programming software such as R or Matlab, and some talent for the valuable tasks of figure preparation.

Qualifications:
Required: Bachelor’s Degree in biology, chemistry, oceanography, ecology or related degree plus a minimum of 2 years of experience. Familiarity with field and laboratory measurements of the biological and chemical properties of seawater. Working knowledge of basic computer software (e.g., Microsoft Office) and at least one specialized software program such as ArcGIS, R, Matlab, Sigmaplot, or similar. Valid driver’s license, small boat experience, ability and willingness to make overnight travel, ability to participate in field sampling is also necessary. Ability to do occasional lifting and carrying of equipment up to 40 pounds. Finally, we seek someone with strong interpersonal skills to join our team of coastal ecologists.

Salary will depend on academic background and job experience. Funding for this position is contingent on continued funding. Full or part-time options are possible. Electronic applications (including a full CV, description of past experiences, and names and addresses of three references) should be sent to personnel@cbl.umces.edu Reference: Lora Harris in the subject line

Applications received by May 4, 2016 will receive full consideration.

UMCES is an EOE. Individuals with disabilities, veterans, women and minorities are encouraged to apply.