

From: April MH Blakeslee
Subject: Parasite Ecology Internship at Shoals Marine Lab Summer 2018

Project overview:

The Isles of Shoals represent an exceptional location for exploring parasite diversity in multi-host parasite systems (particularly trematode parasites) that include intertidal invertebrates and shorebirds. Previous work at Shoals Marine Laboratory has resulted in interesting patterns in parasite prevalence of intermediate hosts around the islands, as well as influences on host foraging behavior and physiology. The Parasite Ecology Intern will collect parasite diversity data in invertebrate hosts on Appledore Island, assist with experiments that induce infection in intermediate hosts, and explore host behavior in the lab and the field. Interns will learn how to identify trematode parasite species using a microscope, how to induce an infection gradient in host crabs, set-up and run behavior and predation experiments, and can use what they learn from this and past work to design a related project. The intern will be a part of the larger SML Research Internship cohort and will participate in weekly discussions and lectures.

Prerequisites:

Previous coursework in ecology and marine biology is recommended. Previous experience at SML is preferred, but not required. Relevant SML courses include: Ecology & the Marine Environment, Evolution & Marine Diversity, Field Marine Invertebrate Biology, and the Shoals Research Apprenticeship.

Mentor: Dr. April Blakeslee (East Carolina University)

Dates: June 4 – August 13, 2018 (10 weeks)

SML Research Symposium: August 11, 2018

Stipend: \$150/week

Includes room & board for 10 weeks, and roundtrip vessel transportation from Portsmouth, NH to Appledore Island. Interns are responsible for their own transportation to/from Portsmouth, NH at the beginning and end of the internship.

One intern will be selected.