



Harry R. Hughes
CENTER FOR AGRO-ECOLOGY



COLLEGE OF
**AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Summer 2022 Hughes Center Internship Opportunity

The Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc. (Hughes Center) is seeking undergraduate student applicants interested in working as an intern on a project that will require extensive research related to agriculture, urbanization, land use, food systems, and policies in Maryland over a twenty-year period. This internship is part of a five-year \$9 million project, **“Thriving Agricultural Systems in Urbanized Landscapes”** funded by USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA.) This position is supported by Sustainable Agricultural Systems grant no. 2019-68012-29904/project accession no. 1019799 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. You will be the sole intern at the Hughes Center for this nine-week internship, but you will work closely with interns at Penn State and Virginia Tech. This experience will provide you the opportunity to interact closely with leaders from the agricultural and environmental communities as well as state and federal agencies.

The internship will familiarize you with the complexities of the issues surrounding natural resource issues, including nutrient management for the Chesapeake Bay, local food production, and land use. During the course of the internship, you will work closely with interns at Penn State and Virginia Tech who will be gathering similar data to provide baseline information for Pennsylvania and Virginia for use by the research team. Information garnered by the three interns will provide the baseline for the next stage of the multi-year project.

The intern will:

- Collect current data and projections for the next 20-30 years of Maryland’s population, urbanization, climate, agricultural production, infectious livestock diseases, especially avian flu and African swine fever, land use, food systems, and food consumption;
- Compile information on state and local government policies in Maryland related to these issues;
- Participate in three in-person meetings with the other two interns and mentors (meetings will occur at the three institutions);
- Engage with the other interns and Hughes Center staff on a weekly basis to report status of the work;
- Work independently and engage with a broad range of sources to obtain the necessary data and information;
- Meet periodically with members of the NIFA project team to update the team on your progress; and
- Prepare a report and present your findings to the project team.

The intern must:

- Be a licensed driver with their own reliable transportation;
- Be willing to attend all three in-person meetings.

Candidates should have relevant coursework; have excellent writing and communication skills; proficiency in a variety of data management and analytical systems, specifically Excel; have the ability to work from home; and be willing to conduct occasional travel.

Compensation: The intern will be paid \$15.00 an hour for a 40-hour workweek. The internship will commence in June 2022 and conclude by mid-August 2022.

To apply: Send your resume, cover letter and at least one academic and professional letter of recommendation and reference to Nancy Nunn at: nnunn@umd.edu.

Deadline to Apply: April 20, 2022

About the project: “Thriving Agricultural Systems in Urbanized Landscapes”

This 5-year, \$9 million project funded by [USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture \(NIFA\)](#) seeks to create economically thriving and environmentally beneficial agricultural systems in urbanized landscapes. These agricultural systems are located in metropolitan counties and in non-metropolitan counties adjacent to metro areas, and are vital to the sustainability of U.S. agriculture. Over two-thirds of U.S. net farm income comes from these urbanized landscapes.

The central hypothesis of this project is that value-added agriculture of the kind required to be economically sustainable in urbanized landscapes can be achieved while enhancing ecosystem services. The overall goal is to make this hypothesis a reality within the next 25 years, using the Chesapeake Bay Watershed as a case study translatable to other urbanized landscapes.

This multi-faceted project is examining the balance of agriculture and urbanized landscapes through multiple lenses. Research teams are studying the implementation of various practices on agricultural lands to determine both environmental and economic impact. Social scientists are engaging with technical service providers and producers to determine best approaches to encourage adoption of best management practices. A team of researchers is developing five scenarios to test the impact that various factors will have on the future of agriculture in urbanized landscapes. The interns’ work will provide this team with data and information to develop a current and future baseline in each state.

About the Hughes Center

Founded in 1999, the Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology’s mission is to provide leadership to promote environmentally sound and economically viable agriculture and forestry as Maryland’s preferred land use through research, outreach and collaboration.

For additional information, visit: go.umd.edu/hughescenter

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