

Delaware Sea Grant
Marine Advisory Service (MAS)
2026 Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Internship

The mission of the Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service (MAS) is to help Delaware communities wisely use, manage, and conserve our state's valuable coastal resources by fostering sustainable coastal economies, developing resilience to coastal hazards, and preparing the next generation of coastal leaders. We achieve this through building active partnerships with state and federal agencies, local businesses, environmental nonprofits, Delaware communities and residents, and by advancing environmental literacy and initiating opportunities for students, teachers, and Delaware residents.

Position Description:

Two interns will be hired from this posting. The Delaware Sea Grant (DESG) internship offers an opportunity to dive deep into Marine Advisory Services (MAS) programs, play an integral role in their planning and implementation, and gain practical research experience. Interns will develop an understanding of the biology and ecology of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in Delaware and assist in efforts to support SAV recovery and restoration.

This position will directly support SAV restoration efforts across Delaware. Responsibilities may include:

- assessing natural SAV beds to determine seed readiness
- deploying, retrieving, and maintaining water quality loggers
- evaluating restoration sites
- assisting with seed processing
- conducting seed germination trial experiments.

One intern will focus on restoration efforts in northern Delaware, particularly within the Delaware Bay watershed, while the second intern will focus on southern Delaware, including the Delaware Inland Bays watershed, however both will be based at the University of Delaware campus in Lewes, DE.

Interns will gain experience collaborating across sectors, working with state government partners such as the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), National Estuary Program nonprofits, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, and the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays. This cross-sector collaboration will provide valuable exposure to applied coastal science and restoration partnerships.

In addition to SAV-focused work, interns may also gain experience in marine debris initiatives, coastal hazards and preparedness, environmental education, energy extension, urban environmental education, and hands-on fieldwork in fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal ecology.

This is a unique opportunity to build valuable skills in restoration science, field research, science communication, education, and public engagement while working alongside professionals dedicated to advancing science and stewardship of Delaware's coastal ecosystems.

Qualifications:

A current or recently graduated undergraduate or graduate student studying natural resources, marine science or policy, earth science, and/or science education is preferred, but all applications will be considered. Experience with or interest in plant science, GIS, scientific equipment, outreach, and stakeholder engagement are preferred.

Internship Logistics:

This is a paid internship at \$15-\$20 an hour depending on experience, and hiring is contingent upon receiving grant funding. The internship will begin in late May or early June 2026 but is flexible. The internship will run for 12-15 weeks, depending on availability. The intern will work at least 20 hours per week and no more than 24 hours per week, with the potential option of hybrid format on some occasions. Most work will take place in person at the

University of Delaware Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, Delaware or select field sites across the state. Local and statewide travel, outside of daily commute, may be required and will be reimbursed.

Application Process:

We encourage applications from all interested individuals. University of Delaware undergraduate students who are currently enrolled through the Fall semester of 2026 should apply through [Talent Link](#). All other interested parties should send a cover letter expressing their interest in the position and resume to Brittany Haywood at haywoobl@udel.edu by **5:00pm Eastern March 27**. Selected candidates may be asked to provide additional application materials and participate in a Zoom interview.

For more information about Delaware Sea Grant and the Advisory Service, please visit www.deseagrant.org, or contact Brittany Haywood (haywoobl@udel.edu) with specific questions.