

Summer 2015 REU. Plant Evolutionary Genetics. University of Minnesota. St. Paul, MN

Ruth Shaw's Research Group in the Dept. of Ecology, Evolution & Behavior at the University of Minnesota is seeking applicants for an NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) position in summer 2015 to study the process of ongoing adaptation in experimental populations of partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) in prairie habitat. The student will work closely with Dr. Ruth Shaw and Dr. Seema Sheth to develop an independent project in the area of plant evolutionary genetics, with possibilities ranging from estimating heritability and phenotypic selection on various plant traits to conducting studies of pollination ecology. The student will gain invaluable experience in performing field work and in conducting an independent research project, from hypothesis formulation through oral and written dissemination of results, thereby preparing the student for a career in inquiry-based scientific research.

The student must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and should be enrolled as an undergraduate in Fall 2015. The ideal candidate should enjoy working outdoors and have an interest in learning about the evolution and ecology of plants in the Midwest prairies, and candidates planning to pursue a graduate career in evolution, ecology, or conservation biology are particularly well-suited for this position.

The REU intern will receive a stipend of \$5,000 and room and board in the Twin Cities (with occasional overnight travel to field sites). Costs of travel to and from the Twin Cities will also be provided.

The deadline to apply for this position is March 9, 2015, and the 10-week internship will begin on Monday, June 8 and end on Friday, August 14.

Please contact Seema Sheth (snsheth@umn.edu) for more information.

The University of Minnesota provides equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals of underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. Please spread the word to any interested and qualified undergraduates.

To apply, please e-mail the following application materials to Seema Sheth (snsheth@umn.edu) with the subject line "REU" no later than March 9, 2015:

- 1) a statement explaining the following:
 - Why you are interested in this position?
 - What previous experience do you have that is relevant for this position?
 - What are your future plans?
 - What dates are you available to start and end this position?
 - confirm eligibility for the REU program
 - the name of the person who will serve as your reference
 - your e-mail address and phone number
- 2) resume
- 3) transcript (unofficial is acceptable)
- 4) 1 letter of recommendation (sent by your reference)

For more information about Ruth Shaw's research group, visit: ruthgshaw.wordpress.com