



INTERNSHIP AT LATVIAN FUND FOR NATURE:

grassland habitat inventory and management

DURATION:

3 months

PERIOD:

1 May to 31 July, 2023

COMMITMENT:

4 days per week [35 hours]

FIELD OF STUDIES:

natural sciences /
environmental sciences /
geography / agricultural
sciences

LEVEL OF STUDIES:

Bachelor

SKILLS REQUIRED:

- Good English skills
- Drivers licence [EU category B] and driving experience
- Basic knowledge in plant species determination
- Knowledge of ecology of semi-natural grassland ecosystems
- Research skills
- Computer skills [Word, Spreadsheets, databases]
- Interpersonal skills - being able to work independently, as well as working in team; proactivity
- Working knowledge of Latin names for plant species identification would be an advantage

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The internship is UNPAID, priority will be given to applicants who are part or are planning to apply for Erasmus Plus or other scholarship.
- Legal eligibility to work in the EU is a must.
- Foreign students should be covered by health and travel insurance from their home country.

DESCRIPTION:

Latvian Fund for Nature offers **four** internship positions for natural sciences Bachelor students interested in working with grassland habitat inventories, monitoring and management. Interns will have an opportunity to participate in the WoodMeadowLIFE, LIFE MarshMeadows and other projects dealing with EU grassland habitats.



Interns will be provided with the initial training in plant identification upon starting the internship and afterwards tasked with independent work under the supervision of an experienced grassland habitat expert. The work will involve intensive fieldwork, working outdoors in various weather conditions [preparation of vegetation descriptions; soil sampling; mapping and marking of trees, bushes and other landscape elements that should be saved during restoration works; removal of invasive species; seed collection; distribution of green-hay, an inspection of fences on grazing sites etc.]. We will provide interns with means of transport and will cover the transport and accommodation costs while working in the field (if Erasmus or other scholarships would not cover those costs).

We offer a unique opportunity to participate in the hands-on habitat management and restoration work and become a part of a grassland restoration and management team. The interns will acquire practical skills in identifying grassland plant species, mapping and identifying EU grassland habitats, management planning and monitoring.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MAIN TASKS:

TASK 1:

fieldwork in grassland habitat mapping and monitoring

Intern duties will focus primarily on assisting in the field surveys in before-restoration mapping and monitoring: description of vegetation structure according to the EU habitat mapping methodology of Latvia and filling in the vegetation monitoring questionnaires in permanent and semi-permanent plots [standard methodology for vegetation description].

TASK 2:

fieldwork with habitat restoration

Intern duties will focus on assisting in the practical field works for restoration planning [like mapping and marking of trees, bushes, and other landscape elements that should be saved during restoration work], removal of invasive species, cutting of expansive species, collection of local seeds for the enrichment of species composition, distribution of green-hay, inspection of fences on grazing sites, etc.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL TASKS:

3. Soil sampling.
4. Data entry into database and data analysis [office work].
5. Participation in organizing public events.



HOW TO APPLY:

1. **Record a short** (max. 3 min.) **video** about yourself: brief presentation, your study area, why you want to come here, everything that you would like to tell us! Upload the video on any video sharing platform you use - Dropbox, YouTube, Vimeo, WeTransfer, etc.
2. **Prepare your CV.**
3. **Apply by sending a link to the video and your CV:**
via the Erasmus internship portal: <https://erasmusintern.org/> OR
to Latvian Fund for Nature e-mail: ldf@ldf.lv

Deadline to apply: 30 November 2022

ABOUT LATVIAN FUND FOR NATURE:

Latvian Fund for Nature is a non-profit non-governmental organisation working in the field of nature protection and habitat/species management in Latvia. The organisation was established in 1991 and our mission is to preserve biological diversity in Latvia. To achieve this, we are engaged in practical activities to preserve the environment and to educate society about the importance of biodiversity. We implement various national and EU-level projects dealing with habitat restoration and management and engage society in nature protection via citizen science and other activities. Our office is located in Riga, the capital of Latvia.

More information about Latvian Fund for Nature:
www.ldf.lv

Here you can read the stories of interns in the GrassLIFE project at Latvian Fund for Nature from 2021 to 2022: www.grasslife.lv

For more information, please contact Internship Coordinator Nora Rustanovica at nora.rustanovica@ldf.lv

