



# Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

## Tropical Forest Ecology Internships in Panama

The Muller-Landau lab at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) seeks 3 interns to participate in research on tropical forest ecology in Panama for 9-12 months each. One internship will focus on tropical forest carbon budgets, another on landscape-level variation in forest structure and dynamics, and a third on the role of lianas (woody vines). The **carbon intern** will focus on synthesizing field data collected at multiple sites in Panama and across the [ForestGEO / CTFS](http://www.forestgeo.si.edu) network of large-scale, long-term forest dynamics plots, and will participate in local field data collection. The **landscape intern** will focus on collecting and analyzing geospatial data on forest structure and dynamics collected using drones to quantify variation in relation to topography, soils and climate, building on 3 years of data collection. The **liana intern** will collect field data, analyze pre-existing datasets, and/or conduct modeling to investigate the determinants of liana abundance and the importance of liana strategy diversity. Additional information on these opportunities can be found at <http://www.forestgeo.si.edu/article/262/>

All interns will have the opportunity to gain experience in tropical forest field work, quality assurance/quality control of the relevant datasets, programming and running analyses in R (and/or ArcGIS), and writing up results for scholarly publication. The successful candidates will work closely with staff scientist Dr. [Helene Muller-Landau](http://www.forestgeo.si.edu) and collaborators. The [Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute](http://www.forestgeo.si.edu) is located in Panama, and is home to a vibrant scientific community of 30 staff scientists, over 100 graduate and postdoctoral fellows, and 1500 scientific visitors per year.

The ideal candidates have a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, strong quantitative skills including programming experience, and strong English and/or Spanish oral and written communication skills. The positions are particularly well suited for candidates seeking more research experience prior to graduate school. Each internship will be compensated with a modest stipend sufficient to cover living expenses in Panama (\$1000/month), as well as roundtrip travel to Panama if relevant. The start dates are flexible and can be as early as March or as late as September 2018.

**To apply**, please email a CV, a cover letter describing your qualifications and interest in one or more of the positions, and contact information for 3 references to Helene Muller-Landau at [mullerh@si.edu](mailto:mullerh@si.edu). Review of applications will commence on February 15, 2018, and continue until the positions are filled.

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