

Science Fellowships

Estuary Science, Coastal Restoration, and Freshwater Mussel Restoration

Do you like the outdoors, getting dirty, and supporting clean water initiatives? The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE), a regional environmental non-profit organization based in Wilmington, Delaware, is seeking to fill **three 8-month** science fellowship positions. These are full-time, non-exempt positions. The fellows will assist with ongoing research, monitoring and field projects, sample processing and laboratory tasks, GIS-related activities, and data management and reporting tasks. Expected job functions are as follows:

All Fellows will:

- Participate in all science and restoration initiatives, as needed
- Contribute to other field, laboratory, or desktop tasks as funding allows
- Assist with field equipment maintenance
- Assist with tracking deliverables and key project metrics
- Assist with data capture, entry, and quality assurance/checks
- Help prepare various project materials for website and social media platforms as needed

One fellow will be hired to fill a position for each of the following focus areas:

Estuary Science

- Participate in science initiatives including, but not limited to tidal wetland monitoring and assessment, oyster shell recycling, and ecoacoustic assessments, as well as estuary condition status and trend reporting
- Assist with restoration project installation and monitoring related to living shorelines
- Assist in hosting and supporting oyster shell recycling program outreach events when opportunities allow

Coastal Restoration

- Participate in science and restoration initiatives including, but not limited to, shellfish recruitment studies, water quality (i.e., total suspended solids) assessments, tidal wetland monitoring and assessment, and oyster shell recycling
- Assist in hosting and supporting oyster shell recycling program outreach events when opportunities allow

- Assist with restoration project installation and monitoring related to living Shorelines

Freshwater Mussel Restoration

- Participate in science and restoration initiatives including, but not limited to water quality (i.e., total suspended solids) assessments, freshwater mussels stock maintenance, and freshwater mussel monitoring
- Assist with restoration project installation and monitoring related to living shorelines

Candidates must possess an Associate's (or higher) degree from a college or university in environmental science or related field **OR** be in at least their third year of a comparable Bachelor's degree program **OR** have at least 1 year of work experience in a related field. Fellows need to have experience working outdoors for extended periods of time (>5hrs), and familiarity with Microsoft Office (e.g., Word, Excel). Familiarity with scientific research is also important, as well as the ability to work cooperatively and be flexible. A valid driver's license and United States citizenship, or a valid visa to work in the US, are required. Good organizational skills, multi-tasking, and attention to detail are important, as well as proficient written and oral communication skills. Candidates must be capable of lifting 40 pounds, as well as sit and/or stand for at least 4 hours at a time.

Time spent in this position will be split between office (PDE office or remote home office) and outdoor settings. There will also be tasks completed in a storage/warehouse facility or in field locations (outdoor, rural settings). Work hours may shift depending on the tides or project assignments. Employees must have the ability to transport themselves to any field or other work locations within a 2-hour radius of Wilmington, DE.

Fellowship positions are paid \$25 an hour and are temporary (to December 31, 2026, with potential for renewal if/as funding allows), full-time (35 hrs per week), and non-exempt.

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Inc. is an equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified persons are encouraged to apply regardless of religious affiliation, race, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or any category that becomes protected by federal labor law. Candidates must be able to work legally in the United States.

Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a resume and one-page cover letter by close of business March 18, 2026 via this [Google form](#). The cover letter should include: 1) why the applicant is interested in working at PDE; 2) how the applicant's experience makes them a good candidate; 3) the applicant's preferred fellowship area (e.g., Estuary Science, Coastal Restoration, or Freshwater Mussel Restoration) and 4) a description of the applicant's long-term goals. The applicant's description of what makes them a good candidate and how PDE can help the applicant achieve long-term career goals are particularly important to address in the cover letter (vs reiterating material in resume).

Any questions can be directed via email to Leah Morgan at Lmorgan@delawareestuary.org.

Google form full hyperlink:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKOd2FVI2emewoHRkDH46QMjznaw9bSx-pzttSI87QOWeQ/viewform>