

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION INTERNSHIP

Department of Biological Sciences & Department of Art + Film, Cal Poly Humboldt

Combining conservation biology science and art can be a powerful method of raising awareness of global declines in biodiversity. Scientific illustration is one of the oldest and strongest links between scientists and artists, and has served to illustrate our planet's biodiversity for many centuries. With support from the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, the Departments of Biological Sciences & Department of Art + Film at Cal Poly Humboldt is inviting applicants to participate in the Bio + Art Scientific Illustration Internship.

The intern will participate in a project combining aspects of biology and illustration and will be focused on scientific illustration of extinct species from Brazil, where countless animal and plant species are being pushed to the brink of extinction due to habitat loss, climate change, and human activity. The IUCN Red List identifies dozens of Brazilian species that have vanished or cling to survival in tiny, fragmented populations. Some examples are the critically endangered *Juscelinomys* rodent (discovered during the construction of Brazil's current capital, Brasilia, in the 1960s) and plants like the cactus *Cereus estevesii* (endemic to the Atlantic Forest but possibly extinct in the wild).

The intern is expected to create illustrations that are both scientifically accurate and artistically distinctive. The project will be mentored by two Cal Poly Humboldt professors (Pedro Peloso - Department of Biological Sciences, and Brandice Guerra - Department of Art + Film). Total internship duration is expected to last from 6 to 9 months, including both online and offline (in-house and remote) periods. **Interns are expected to complete a residency program of at least 8 weeks in Arcata, CA.** The period of in-house residency will be discussed with the selected candidates.

Requirements

A degree in Biological Sciences, the Arts, or a closely related discipline. The requirement is waived for currently enrolled Cal Poly Humboldt students.

Experience in the naturalistic illustration of wildlife is necessary. This will be assessed through a review of each applicant's portfolio. Candidates with experience in paleoart (original artistic work that attempts to depict prehistoric/extinct life according to scientific evidence) will be given preference.

Both digital and traditional media illustrators are welcome to apply. Those working in traditional media (pencil, watercolor, acrylic painting, etc) must be able to digitally edit and otherwise independently prepare their traditional media work for print and viewing on screen.

Candidates from groups underrepresented in academia, especially BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, including people of Hispanic heritage), members of the LGBTQ+ community, and those who were first-generation college students or others from socioeconomic backgrounds minoritized in the academy are especially encouraged to apply. As this is an opportunity designed for early career illustrators, applicants should have received their degrees within the last 5 years.

We will select up to **four interns**, with two spots preferentially given to Cal Poly Students.

Stipends, travel, and housing info:

- **A stipend in the total amount of \$1,800** over the 8-week period of residency at Cal Poly Humboldt.
- An additional stipend of \$1,800 may be given for eligible candidates to support housing needs over the course of the internship.
 - Note: This award will be restricted for interns not currently enrolled as students at Cal Poly Humboldt.
- **Up to \$2,600 for travel and/or VISA fees** (for international applicants).
 - Note: although grant funds may be used for VISA fees, Cal Poly Humboldt cannot, at this moment, guarantee that we will sponsor exchange visas for this internship.
 - Note: This award will be restricted for interns not currently enrolled as students at Cal Poly Humboldt.
- Housing is not guaranteed through this internship. The successful candidate will need to arrange and pay for their own housing. For information on housing in the area, please see <https://housing.humboldt.edu/>

Application Details

- **Fill out form at <https://forms.gle/DUP2eJEH1gj8SnZq8>**
- A statement of purpose (max. 500 words) highlighting the candidate's background and interest in this internship.
- A brief technology statement (max 150 words) detailing the candidate's experience preparing illustration files for print and viewing on screen.
- Portfolio. An electronic portfolio of 10 to 15 illustrations made by the candidate. For artists working in traditional media, please have your images digitized and submitted electronically - physical copies of the portfolio will not be accepted. The portfolio will be used for evaluating the candidate's potential for successfully completing the internship program and determining their ability to participate and make immediate impact in the *EXTINTOS* project.
- The portfolio should be submitted as a single, multi-page PDF. Each image should reside on its own page within the PDF and must be accompanied by the following information: title, medium, size, and year completed.
- A link to a personal website or image gallery (in addition to the 10 to 15 images submitted in PDF) may be provided as supplementary information.
- **All documents must be sent by 11:59 PM of the deadline for application** (December 31, 2025).

For any questions or additional information please email pedropeloso@humboldt.edu



***Melanophryniscus peritus* (Lost Red Bellied Toad)**

A presumably extinct species from Brazil (last seen in 1959), known only from a single type specimen.
Drawing (watercolor) by Dani Cafaggi, an international intern in the Scientific Illustration Internship Program.

The Bio + Art Scientific Illustration Internship is supported by:

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