

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

Department of Environmental Science and Management
1 Harpst Street, Arcata, CA 95521

Job Title: *DNA Barcoding Research Assistant*

No. of Openings: 1

Work Schedule: Weekdays, 4 to 8 hour shifts

Hours per Week: up to 20 hrs/week

Wage/Salary: \$18/hour

Employment Start Date: late February, 2026

Employment End Date: ~end of spring semester

Supervisor: Jesse Laine, graduate student, and Dr. Monica Sheffer, Assistant Professor

Job Description:

The Byrne and Sheffer labs seek 1 part time research assistant to assist second-year graduate student Jesse Laine with laboratory benchwork for DNA barcoding arthropod samples. Assistant will work through protocols for DNA extraction, PCR, and DNA sequencing on an Oxford Nanopore MinION sequencer. Work will involve precise, repetitive tasks like pipetting, so strong attention to detail is required. Tasks may also involve preparing arthropod specimens for storage.

Primary duties may include:

- Preparing DNA extraction and PCR mixes
- Pipetting into 96-well plates
- Assisting with data entry
- Closely following lab protocols
- Organizing arthropod samples

Qualifications:

SKILLS:

- Attention to detail

- Ability to work accurately for several hours on delicate tasks
- Pipetting experience
- Knowledge of molecular biology processes (i.e. PCR)
- Reliable and accountable

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Coursework/labwork in molecular biology
- Interest in entomology

Application Instructions:

Please submit **as one combined PDF** a resume and brief cover letter. In your cover letter please mention why you are interested in the position, your availability this semester, any relevant lab experience, and contact information for 2 professional references (one must be an CPH professor) to Jesse Laine at Jesse.Laine@humboldt.edu. **Do not ask your references to provide letters - just provide their name and email address.**

Applications due by **Friday, Feb 13** (early submissions appreciated)

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For assistance with the application process, please submit an Accommodation Request Form, which can be found here or contact ADA Coordinator at 707.826.3626 or confidential fax at 707.826.3625. For more information regarding accommodation, you may also visit the Cal Poly Humboldt Human Resources website at <https://hraps.humboldt.edu/reasonable-accommodation>. Individuals in need of a telecommunications relay service may contact the California Relay Service at 877.735.2929 TTY.