

Position Announcement: Undergraduate Research Assistant (Dendrology Photo Collection)

Position Title: Undergraduate Research Assistant – Dendrology Image Collection

Department/Unit: FACAI-Purdue / Forestry & Natural Resources

Compensation: \$15/hour

Time Commitment: Approximately 10 hours/week

Start Date: As soon as available (flexible)

Duration: Spring 2026 with possibility of extension to early summer 2026

Position Summary

I am recruiting an Undergraduate Research Assistant to support the development of a dendrology-focused book by compiling a high-quality image library of diagnostic tree characteristics. The assistant will collect and curate photographs for approximately **100 tree species across the United States**, emphasizing clear, instructive images suitable for publication.

Primary Responsibilities

- Collect and organize high-quality images illustrating dendrology traits, including (but not limited to):
 - Leaves (upper/lower surfaces, margins, venation)
 - Buds (terminal/lateral), twigs, leaf scars
 - Bark
 - Overall form (silhouette/crown architecture)
 - Reproductive structures (flowers, fruits, cones, catkins) where applicable
- Source images through one or more of the following approaches:
 - Using your **own original photographs**
 - Taking new photographs in the field (as feasible)
 - Collecting images from online sources **with proper license/permission and complete citation**
- For each image, maintain documentation including:
 - Species name (scientific and common)
 - Location (if available), date (if available), photographer/creator
 - Usage license (e.g., CC BY) and link/source
 - Any required attribution text (per license terms)
- Deliver curated image sets in an organized file structure with a metadata log (spreadsheet or database format provided).

Required Qualifications

- Current undergraduate student in Forestry, Natural Resources, Ecology, or a closely related field
- **Has taken or is currently taking dendrology** (or equivalent tree identification coursework)
- Demonstrated attention to detail and ability to follow documentation/citation requirements

Preferred Qualifications

- Already possesses a **personal collection** of dendrology photographs
- Can access and/or photograph species in the **Western or Southern U.S.** (field access, travel plans, internships, hometown location, etc.)

Work Modality

- Primarily remote/independent work, with regular check-ins (weekly or as needed)

How to Apply

Please email the following materials to Prof. Jingjing Liang at jiliang@purdue.edu:

1. A brief statement of interest (1–2 paragraphs) describing your dendrology experience and why you are a good fit
2. Your resume (PDF)
3. If available, **3–10 sample photos** (or a link to a folder/portfolio) demonstrating dendrology-relevant images
4. A short note on your access to regional species (especially Western or Southern U.S.) and any existing photo collection

Application Review: Rolling review until filled.