

Ecology Laboratory Technician

Part-Time Student Position

- ~8 hours per week (up to 10 possible), scheduling is flexible
- ~\$17 /hr
- Ideal start date: October 1 (or as soon as possible)
- Application deadline: Sept. 19th
- Job duration: Until end of Spring 2026 (possible summer)
- Location: SEEL building, East Campus

The CU Ecology and Mountain Biogeography Lab is seeking a motivated, detail-oriented, and independent student technician to assist with indoor laboratory work this winter.

About the Mountain Ecology and Biogeography Lab (Mt. Bio)

Led by Professor Sisimac Duchicela, the Mt. Bio Lab studies how changing environmental conditions affect high-altitude ecosystems across the Americas. From shifts in temperature and precipitation to experimental warming and land-use change, we investigate how these factors influence vegetation and plant reproduction. Working primarily in the Ecuadorian Andes and the Colorado Rockies, we explore unique ecological connections between tropical and temperate alpine systems.

About the Project

This winter we are starting a pilot project examining germination strategies of alpine plants. For this phase of the pilot, we will be processing alpine plant seeds collected in Colorado.

Job Responsibilities

70% –Seed counting and processing

- Separating seeds from flower heads using tweezers and occasionally a dissecting microscope
- Sorting seeds into viable and non-viable groups
- Placing seeds into petri dishes or planting flats
- Checking seed progress in germination chambers (spring)

Note: Seeds are mostly <1 mm in size, and there are hundreds of them! The work can be repetitive and requires patience and precision.

20% – Other laboratory tasks

- Organizing and labeling samples
- Mixing soil and preparing equipment
- Entering handwritten data into Excel or Survey123
- Assisting with data quality checks on the computer

- Light writing tasks as needed

10% – Learning opportunities

- Gain experience with fieldwork, R, or another area connected to our projects.

You will work primarily on your own or with another undergraduate, with regular training and support check-ins from our Lab Manager and Professor Duchicela.

Requirements

Training will be provided. Prior experience processing plant samples is helpful but not required. We value curiosity, clear communication, and a willingness to learn.

- Clear, open communication
- Strong attention to detail in repetitive tasks
- Ability to work independently on well-defined tasks (after training)
- Careful attention to written and verbal instructions
- Interest in plant ecology, biology, geography, or related fields
- Availability to attend Wednesday lab meetings 2:30–3:30pm (preferred, not required)

Skills You Will Gain

- Experience processing plant samples in a lab environment
- Experience monitoring germination and maintaining experimental conditions
- Practice using ArcGIS Survey123, a widely used program
- Experience brainstorming and project planning in lab meetings
- Opportunities to manage biological data in Excel and/or R
- Opportunities to participate in seed collection at the Mountain Research Station (early fall only, depending on start date)

To Apply

Email a short cover letter (½ page) and resume to [**mountain.bio.lab@gmail.com**](mailto:mountain.bio.lab@gmail.com). Highlight any relevant experience and indicate your availability.

Questions? Contact sisimac.duchicela@colorado.edu or nyika.campbell@colorado.edu