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## Research Technician Position in Coastal Ecology

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[Dr. Simon Brandl's Lab](#) at the [University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute](#) (UTMSI) is recruiting a research technician to work on a collaborative project related to energy fluxes in coastal ecosystems. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic, reliable, and thorough, passionate about coastal research, and eager to help spearhead an exciting, interdisciplinary research project.

**Closing date: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Virtual interviews: late March 2024**  
**Start date: early summer 2024**

We are committed to providing pathways to academic careers for students who have overcome disproportional adversities throughout their lives. Such candidates will receive prime consideration.

### Position description

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A research technician position is available in **Dr. Simon Brandl's** Lab, located at UTMSI in Port Aransas, TX 78373 (~3.5 hrs from the main UT campus in Austin). The position is tied to a collaborative project among multiple PIs that will investigate energy fluxes to shorebirds in coastal intertidal ecosystems. Thus, there will be an opportunity to interact with other labs at UT Austin's main campus (**Dr. Amanda Koltz**, **Dr. Matt Ashworth**), UTMSI (**Dr. Jordan Casey**), a local conservation agency (**Dr. David Newstead**, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program), and a federal agency (**Dr. Rick Lanctot**, USFWS). The main tasks and their relative contributions include:

- 1) Planning, leading, and assisting with local field sampling efforts to obtain samples of intertidal diatoms, invertebrates, and shorebirds (40%)
- 2) Sample preparation and laboratory analyses, including stable isotope analyses, nutrient analyses, microscopy, and molecular analyses (30%)
- 3) Project management, data management, and budgeting (15%)
- 4) Assisting the PIs and graduate student with other project related tasks, including meetings scheduling, project reporting, and purchasing (15%)

### Qualifications

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*Essential qualifications include:*

- 1) An undergraduate or Master's degree in biology, ecology, marine science, or a related field
- 2) Experience with biological research in laboratory or field settings (or equivalent)
- 3) An ability to work independently, collaboratively, and with great attention to detail

*Desirable qualifications include (any of the skills below):*

- 1) Experience with stable isotope ecology and biogeochemistry, including hands-on skills in sample preparation and analyses
- 2) Experience with molecular techniques (e.g., DNA extraction), including hands-on skills in sample preparation and analyses
- 3) Experience with marine and/or terrestrial fieldwork, including invertebrate sampling, sediment coring, or coastal bird surveys
- 4) Experience with microscopy, including the identification of invertebrates or diatoms
- 5) Experience with basic data management, project management, and budgeting

### Appointment

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*The University of Texas at Austin, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.*



The initial appointment is for 1 year. You will receive a competitive salary and benefits (according to UT guidelines and commensurate with experience).

## Application

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Interested candidates should submit the following materials through UT Workday (link below) by 5pm, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 (CST).

- 1) A cover letter describing your interest in the position, experience, and qualifications (1 page).
- 2) Your current CV.
- 3) Names and contact information for two academic references.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact [simon.brandl@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:simon.brandl@austin.utexas.edu).