The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has openings for up to six University of Virginia Arts and Sciences advanced undergraduate student interns for the summer of 2015. These internships are part of an ongoing partnership between NFWF and the University. Compensation will be $6,000 for the summer. In addition, a small number of internships are also available for A&S undergraduate students to work at the offices of Virginia conservation organizations, broadly defined, such as The Nature Conservancy, StreamWatch, and the Southern Environmental Law Center as well as state based organizations that deal directly with conservation issues. These internships also pay $6,000 for the summer. Together these opportunities are known as the UVA Conservation Scholars Program.

In December 2011, the University of Virginia and NFWF announced a partnership designed to foster research and collaboration between NFWF staff and UVA students and faculty (for more details, see www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=16838). The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that preserves and restores our nation’s native wildlife species and habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. NFWF works with individuals, foundations, government agencies, non-profits, and corporations to identify and fund the nation’s most intractable conservation challenges.

More information on NFWF can be found at www.nfwf.org. Arts and Sciences student interns will perform research, analysis, and assessment in connection with specific NFWF conservation initiatives or on conservation initiatives of sister conservation organizations. This work will focus on emerging issues in biodiversity conservation, such as (but not limited to) optimizing single species conservation programs to benefit multiple species and the relation of species programs to habitat or ecosystem protection programs; the interaction of NFWF initiatives with existing local, federal, and state laws and programs; and other issues relevant to NFWF conservation initiatives. Interns will work closely with NFWF staff, but will also be supervised by University of Virginia faculty. The positions will likely be based in the Department of Environmental Sciences in Charlottesville, but could also involve some fieldwork. Interns working with sister Conservation groups will likely be based at their headquarter offices. The intern’s work is intended to be a part of ongoing collaboration between NFWF and UVA in an effort to build a strong cohort of future conservation professionals, and the research done in the summer could form the basis for additional research during the academic year.

Interested students should send a resume, transcript, and one-page statement of interest including reference to which NFWF conservation topic that you are most interested in working with or a statement indicting which sister organization they may be interested in working with and why, to Professor Howie Epstein, HEE2B@virginia.edu or Professor Hank Shugart, HHS@virginia.edu. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis when they are received. However, the application deadline is March 25, 2015. Graduating 4th years are eligible!