



# INTERNSHIP AT LATVIAN FUND FOR NATURE:

*urban grassland inventory and management*

## **DURATION:**

4 months

## **PERIOD:**

1 May to 31 August, 2023

## **COMMITMENT:**

4 days per week [35 hours]

## **FIELD OF STUDIES:**

natural sciences /  
environmental sciences /  
geography /  
agricultural sciences /  
landscape architecture

## **LEVEL OF STUDIES:**

Bachelor

## **SKILLS REQUIRED:**

- Good English skills
- Drivers licence [EU category B] and driving experience
- Basic knowledge in plant species determination
- Knowledge of ecology of semi-natural grassland ecosystems
- Research skills
- Computer skills [Word, Spreadsheets, databases]
- Interpersonal skills - being able to work independently, as well as working in team; proactivity
- Working knowledge of Latin names for plant species identification would be an advantage

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The internship is UNPAID, priority will be given to applicants who are part or are planning to apply for Erasmus Plus or other scholarship.
- Legal eligibility to work in the EU is a must.
- Foreign students should be covered by health and travel insurance from their home country.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Latvian Fund for Nature offers a unique internship position for natural sciences Bachelor student interested in working with grassland habitat inventories and management in urban grasslands. You will have an opportunity to participate in the project urbanLIFEcircles, which is an international Estonian - Latvian - Denmark project, dealing with biodiversity-oriented change in urban nature management.

Interns will be provided with the initial training in plant identification upon starting the internship and



afterward tasked with independent work under the supervision of an experienced grassland habitat expert. The work will involve intensive field work, working outdoors in various weather conditions, and participation in practical management and restoration activities in the field - inventories of urban grasslands, containment of invasive species, grassland seed collection, yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor* seed collection, combined with data assembling about plant species. We will provide interns with means of transport and will cover the transport and accommodation costs while working in the field [if those costs would not be covered by Erasmus or other scholarship].

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF MAIN TASKS:

### **TASK 1:** preparing species descriptions about plants characteristic of urban grasslands

[temporal frame: 1-2 days a week in May-August]

Intern duties will focus primarily on creating a particular profile of urban meadow plants, based on scientific research about plant ecology - soil and environmental needs, specific relationships with pollinators, uses for phytoremediation, etc.

### **TASK 2:** fieldwork with the removal of invasive species

[temporal frame: 2-4 days a week in May-August]

Intern duties will focus on the limitation of invasive and undesirable species such as Canada goldenrod *Solidago canadensis*, Bigleaf Lupine *Lupinus polyphyllus*, warty-cabbage *Bunias orientalis*, etc. in urban meadow sites.

### **TASK 3:** fieldwork in urban grasslands with plant species identification

[temporal frame: 2-4 days a week in May-August]

Intern duties will focus on assisting in the field surveys in urban meadow and meadow 1m<sup>2</sup> monitoring: counts of plant species cover in permanent and semi-permanent plots [standard methodology for vegetation description]. Other duties may include miscellaneous tasks, as needed, to support the monitoring sites, e.g. sward management in experimental plots [grass cutting, weeding].

### **TASK 4:** fieldwork with collecting seeds in grasslands and road verges

[temporal frame: 2-4 days a week in July-August]

Intern duties will focus primarily on particular plant seed collection in semi-natural meadows, road verges, and field edges. The supervisor will provide plant identification in different plant development stages.

## POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL TASKS:

5. Fieldwork in grassland habitat monitoring.
6. Participation in organizing public events.
7. Data entry into database and data analysis [office work].

## HOW TO APPLY:

1. **Record a short** (max. 3 min.) **video** about yourself: brief presentation, your study area, why you want to come here, everything that you would like to tell us! Upload the video on any video sharing platform you use - Dropbox, YouTube, Vimeo, WeTransfer, etc.
2. **Prepare your CV.**
3. **Apply by sending a link to the video and your CV:**  
via the Erasmus internship portal: <https://erasmusintern.org/> OR  
to Latvian Fund for Nature e-mail: [ldf@ldf.lv](mailto:ldf@ldf.lv)

**Deadline to apply: 20 January 2023**

## ABOUT LATVIAN FUND FOR NATURE:

Latvian Fund for Nature is a non-profit non-governmental organisation working in the field of nature protection and habitat/species management in Latvia. The organisation was established in 1991 and our mission is to preserve biological diversity in Latvia. To achieve this, we are engaged in practical activities to preserve the environment and to educate society about the importance of biodiversity. We implement various national and EU-level projects dealing with habitat restoration and management and engage society in nature protection via citizen science and other activities. Our office is located in Riga, the capital of Latvia.

**More information about Latvian Fund for Nature:**  
[www.ldf.lv](http://www.ldf.lv)

Here you can read the stories of interns in the GrassLIFE project at Latvian Fund for Nature from 2021 to 2022: [www.grasslife.lv](http://www.grasslife.lv)

For more information, please contact Internship Coordinator Nora Rustanovica at [nora.rustanovica@ldf.lv](mailto:nora.rustanovica@ldf.lv)

