

Postdoctoral Fellow in Integrative Systematics and Phylogenomics of Corals

Posting Number: SRGV8951

Working Title: Postdoctoral Fellow

Location: Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Department: Office of Research Administration

Employment Category: Full-Time (FTE 1.0), Exempt

Position Available Date: May 6, 2026

Appointment Type: Grant-funded, trainee position (12 months; continuation contingent on funding)

Salary: \$55,000

Position Overview

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) invites applications for a **Postdoctoral Fellow** in the laboratory of **Dr. Erin E. Easton** (Port Isabel, TX, <https://eastonbenthos.org/>), with a research focus on **integrative systematics and/or phylogenomics of corals**. The successful candidate will contribute to a vibrant, collaborative research environment and pursue independent and collaborative research as a vital component of professional development.

This position emphasizes the generation and analysis of **phylogenomic datasets for corals**, with particular focus on **octocorals**, and may also include **black corals (Antipatharia)**. The postdoctoral fellow will work under general supervision, exercising initiative and independent judgment in research activities. Application review starting June 1 until filled.

Duties and Responsibilities

In alignment with the UTRGV Postdoctoral Fellow scope and expectations, responsibilities may include:

- Developing, testing, and analyzing research projects in integrative systematics and phylogenomics of corals.
- Obtaining, curating, and analyzing genomic or phylogenomic datasets (e.g., target capture, phylogenomics, comparative genomics).
- Writing narrative summaries of research results and preparing manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Conducting background research and literature synthesis relevant to coral evolution, biodiversity, and systematics.
- **Co-leading the development, writing, and submission of at least two external grant proposals** in collaboration with the supervising faculty member.
- Assisting with the **mentoring and supervision of master's students**, including guidance on research design, analyses, and writing.
- Developing and implementing evaluation or data management plans and preparing progress reports as needed.
- Supporting training activities within the lab and contributing to a collaborative research culture.

- Performing other job-related duties as assigned in support of the lab's research mission.

Required Qualifications

- Doctoral degree (Ph.D. or equivalent) from an accredited university in a STEM field (e.g., biology, evolution, systematics, genomics, marine science, or a related discipline) by the start date.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience with phylogenomics, bioinformatics, or evolutionary genomics.
- Demonstrated research interest in coral systematics.
- Evidence of peer-reviewed publications and/or grant-writing experience.
- Experience mentoring undergraduate or graduate students.

Working Conditions

- Office and research environment with use of a personal computer and proficiency in relevant software and statistical applications.
- Some travel and occasional weekend work may be required.
- UTRGV is a distributed institution, and the position may require presence at multiple locations throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

Application Instructions

Applicants should submit the following materials:

1. Cover letter
2. Curriculum vitae or résumé
3. Unofficial transcripts
4. Research interest statement
5. Names and contact information for **three professional references**

Application materials should be emailed to: **erin.easton@utrgv.edu**

In addition, applicants **must apply formally through the UTRGV careers portal:**

 <https://careers.utrgv.edu/postings/51072>

Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants are advised to omit any confidential information (e.g., date of birth, gender, race/ethnicity) from submitted documents.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. UTRGV is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion and encourages women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities to apply.