# Research Assistant Position for Map of Life

Map of Life (MOL) is seeking research assistants to participate in a global biodiversity research and conservation initiative at Yale University. This is a great opportunity for students looking to gain experience in ecology, GIS, and conservation.

Built on a scalable web platform geared for large biodiversity and environmental data, MOL attempts to provide 'best-possible' species range information and species lists for any geographic area. MOL aims to support effective and global biodiversity education, monitoring, research and decision-making by assembling and integrating a wide range of data types and knowledge about species distributions.

This position will make important contributions to the biodiversity information products that MOL is developing for research, policy, and conservation management at both global and regional scales. Key MOL projects include the Half-Earth Project, advancing Essential Biodiversity Variables for GEO Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), developing biodiversity dashboards for land managers in the Andes Amazon region, and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) Mountain Portal.

## Position responsibilities

In this role, you will be responsible for discovering new data sources and incorporating them into our database, which hosts nearly 100,000 species and over 555 million records, including almost all terrestrial vertebrates, dragonflies, bumblebees, butterflies, and plant species.

Research assistants will be responsible for digitizing biodiversity data, from recording species traits to creating range maps. Approximately 50% of this position will be dedicated to GIS-intensive projects and incumbents will have many opportunities to improve their GIS skills.

Contributing to Map of Life's comprehensive database means complying with strict scientific data standards, and incumbents are expected to adhere to rigorous protocols with keen attention to detail.

## Position requirements

- Demonstrated familiarity with ecological concepts through coursework and/or work experience
- Excellent time management skills
- Desire to increase knowledge in spatial ecology and conservation
- Demonstrated experience working as part of a team
- Effective communication skills
- Passion for wildlife, conservation, and the environment

## Desirable skills

- Familiarity with GIS concepts
- Experience in QGIS and/or ArcGIS
- Experience in a data entry position

## Hours

35 hours per week

## Start date

June 25, 2018

Last date to apply

June 7, 2018

Application instructions

Send your resume, cover letter, and 2 references to Kira McCall (kira.mccall@yale.edu).