Position summary: The Global Change Ecology Lab led by Dr. Miriam Johnston at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) invites applications for a graduate student position (MS or PhD) in forest ecology. We combine diverse measurements and models to understand and predict the response of terrestrial ecosystems to climate, disturbance, and management, with the ultimate goal of supporting sustainability. In collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, the student will explore the relationship between forest ecosystem resilience and carbon sequestration in the Central Appalachians. There is flexibility in the research question to be addressed; key methods may include remote sensing, dendroecology, eddy covariance, and/or ecosystem modeling, depending on student interest.

Start date: Fall 2027

About the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science: UMCES comprises a network of research laboratories located across the state with a shared mission to advance scientific knowledge of the environment and to educate the next generation of environmental scientists and professionals. The Appalachian Laboratory (AL) is in Frostburg, Maryland, in the western part of the state. The AL has a highly collaborative and interdisciplinary environment. We prioritize an inclusive and collegial lab culture and look forward to welcoming new students. Students matriculate through the Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences program. They are affiliated both with UMCES and The University of Maryland, College Park; degrees are joint between these two universities.

Location: Frostburg, MD is a small college town in the scenic Appalachian Mountains with a low cost of living, little traffic, and abundant outdoor recreational and cultural opportunities. Nearby amenities include numerous state and national parks and forests, whitewater areas, the C&O Canal, bike trails including the Great Allegheny Passage, and Frostburg State University.

Qualifications: Applicants must have:

- A BA, BS, or MS in environmental science, ecology, biology, forestry, data science, or a related field (note: PhD applicants do not need prior MS);

- Proficiency in reading scientific literature;

- Enthusiasm to learn quantitative and/or technical skills as required; and

- Strong interest in forested ecosystems of the eastern United States.

Benefits: Annual stipend is ~$35.5K per year, with tuition remission and excellent health benefits. Full support is guaranteed for two years, with ample opportunity to co-write proposals to secure additional funding.

How to Apply:
1. Please email miriam.johnston@umces.edu with a cover letter, CV or resume, and unofficial college transcript to express interest in this position. (Suggested time frame: October/November 2026.)
2. Dr. Johnston will follow up with selected candidates for additional conversation. (Within one month of email contact.)
3. A subset of students will be encouraged to apply formally to the MEES program. (MEES application deadline: January 15, 2027.)

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science is an equal opportunity employer. The Center's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Human Relations, Center Administration, P.O. Box 775, Cambridge, MD 21613.