

2026 Zooplankton Farm Graduate Fellowship

The Pinou Lab (<https://sites.wcsu.edu/pinou/>) at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU) in Danbury Connecticut in collaboration with the Lake Waramaug Conservancy is seeking a MS student to train in zooplankton culture, managing a Zooplankton Farm and monitoring farm productivity. This Lake Management Fellowship expects the graduate student to spend time at Lake Waramaug between June through September, and a modest stipend is included. The successful candidate should have demonstrated coursework or field experience in general ecology and freshwater invertebrate zoology (or microbiology) and interested in lake management issues such as toxic cyanobacteria blooms. The candidate will be expected to complete a WCSU graduate limnology course during summer session II (June 22 – July 25), and summer course enrollment expenses will be covered by this fellowship. The student can apply their training towards the development of a thesis. The interested candidate should be able to commute between Danbury and Lake Waramaug to work at the Zooplankton Farm and transport specimen samples back to WCSU labs. Primary responsibilities include feeding zooplankton, extracting farm population samples and transporting back to the WCSU lab and analyzing, and in the end drafting a final summary / report on farm productivity. Additional lake water quality sampling is also part of the fellowship. Interested applicants are encouraged to email Dr. Pinou by March 15th outlining relevant experience and the names of 3 references along with a CV. All interested candidates are encouraged to apply to the WCSU MS IBD program by March 15th: <https://www.wcsu.edu/biology-msbiodiversity/>.

