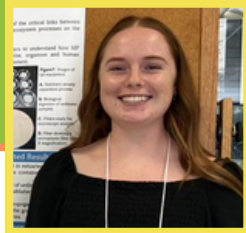




GPMB Student Spotlight



ANNABELLE TIERNEY

For Annabelle's thesis research, she is addressing the ever-increasing problem of plastic pollution in the environment, by performing critical preliminary research. Her work involves a variety of lab techniques to analyze the distribution and abundance of microplastics in sediments and in brown and white shrimp from estuaries along the South Carolina coast.



Annabelle has enjoyed working with new equipment and learning new laboratory and analysis techniques involved in working with microplastics. She appreciates the experiences and opportunities that she has come across throughout her research. "I have also been able to do a lot of field work when collecting samples which has been super fun and cool!"

"I believe this research is important because plastic is now ubiquitous in the world and sadly as a result, the environment. Little is known about the fate, transportation, or impacts microplastics have on the environment and its organisms."



Growing up, Annabelle wanted to be a zoologist but after she visited the Great Barrier Reef, she became more interested in marine biology. "I have been lucky enough to snorkel and scuba dive on the reef multiple times throughout my life, and these experiences are what sparked my love for all things ocean!" After finishing the program, she hopes to move back to Australia to delve into marine conservation, working for a non-profit or an environmental consulting agency to combat climate change. When not in the lab or in the field, Annabelle loves being outdoors, going to the beach, surfing, roller skating, and pickleball (a new hobby!). She also enjoys sewing, and enjoying a good brew or two in her free time.

