

**Internship Program Opportunity  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Water  
Washington, D.C.**

**Project # EPA Water 2009-142**

**Wetlands Monitoring Internship**

An internship project is available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds (OWOW) in Washington, DC.

**About the Program:** OWOW manages the ocean and coastal protection, wetlands, and watershed assessment programs. The Wetlands Division in OWOW administers the CWA Section 404 regulatory program and works with States and Tribe to build capacity in the areas of monitoring and assessment, regulation, water quality standards, and restoration partnerships.

**Project Description:** The Wetlands Division is providing an internship opportunity for qualified individuals to produce research in support of planning for the National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA). Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment is one of four key national strategies for EPA's wetlands program. The NWCA will provide, for the first time, a baseline assessment of wetland quality for the entire nation. This report, due out in 2013, will be used to measure progress toward the federal goal of achieving a net gain in wetland quantity and quality.

**Specific Tasks:** In the near-term, EPA will be developing lab-based plant identification methods for use in the NWCA. No existing laboratory procedure is appropriate for the NWCA given the numerous technical and logistical constraints that are faced. The intern will be mentored by an EPA staff member and will become part of an EPA team involved in conducting interviews with national experts to develop draft procedures for processing, indentifying, and storing vegetation samples. The intern could be involved in planning a field test and an informal review of the draft procedures.

The intern may be involved in one or more projects. These projects will be chosen based on the fellow's experience, education, and interests. Projects that the intern may be involved in include but are not limited to:

- Finalizing existing sections of the NWCA Laboratory Operations Manual, including algae, soils, or water chemistry.
- Developing potential 'Level 1' or Landscape assessment metrics for the National Wetland Condition Assessment.
- Updating content for the National Wetland Condition Assessment Website and the National Wetlands Monitoring and Assessment Work Group Quickplace Site (a virtual library of technical information)

**Expected Results:** The intern will gain first-hand knowledge of EPA's water program and observe how the agency coordinates with states, tribes and other federal agencies to meet national water quality goals. S/he will gain educational benefits from EPA's water programs through direct exposure to the

intersection of science and policy. The intern will gain skills and experience related to wetlands monitoring and assessment, including direct interaction with top scientists from across the country.

**Intern Qualifications and Skills:** Applicants must have received a bachelor's degree within four years of the desired starting date and a strong understanding of botany and/or wetland ecology. Knowledge and experience with wetland vegetation sampling, biological assessment, and wetlands management is preferred. Applicants should demonstrate strong communication and analytical skills and should be comfortable performing independently and as part of a team.

**Stipend and Length of Appointment:** This appointment is for one year and may be extended for an additional two years. A period shorter than twelve months may also be possible, but must be for at least three months. The annual stipend will be up to \$50,408, prorated based on the actual level of participation. Housing, transportation and relocation costs will not be paid.

The program is open to all qualified individuals without regard to race, sex, religion, color, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, or status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran. U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status is preferred (but can also hold an appropriate visa status, however, an H1B visa is not appropriate). The intern must show proof of health and medical insurance. **The intern does not become an EPA employee.**

The EPA mentor for this project is Michael Scozzafava. He can be contacted at (202) 566-1376 or at [Scozzafava.michael@epa.gov](mailto:Scozzafava.michael@epa.gov).

The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. ***Please reference Project # EPA Water 2009-142 when calling or writing for information.*** For additional information and application material contact: Internship Program - EPA Water, Attn: Betty Bowling - MS 36, Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, P.O. Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 Phone: (865) 576-8503 Fax: (865) 241-5219 e-mail: [betty.bowling@ornl.gov](mailto:betty.bowling@ornl.gov).

*Sam Bryant serves as the EPA Office of Water internship program coordinator. His email address is [bryant.samuel@epa.gov](mailto:bryant.samuel@epa.gov).*

An application can be found at <http://www.ornl.gov/orise/edu//EPA/app-gugrgpd.pdf>.