

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF WATER
Washington, D.C.**

Project # EPA Water 2006-77

Implementation Support for National Water Quality Surveys

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

Project Description: OWOW manages the ocean and coastal protection, wetlands and watershed assessment programs. OWOW's Assessment and Watershed Protection Division (AWPD) is responsible for overseeing the national nonpoint source, total maximum daily load programs, and the national monitoring program. The Monitoring Branch has the responsibility for implementing the National Monitoring Initiative which includes support for improving state and tribal monitoring programs, and for implementing national surveys to assess the condition of the nation's waters and changes over time. The Monitoring Branch is seeking an intern to assist with planning and implementing the national surveys of the nation's waters.

The intern will be involved with a number of operational and background research tasks for planning and implementing the Survey of the Nation's Lakes and the Survey of the Nation's Rivers. Key activities could include assisting with operational support for the Surveys including coordinating field training sessions and lab QA/QC activities, and assisting with communications/outreach activities in support of the Surveys. The intern will also be involved in background literature reviews, alternative field sampling protocols, interpretation methods, and identification of core indicators. The intern could also be involved with the development of field, sampling, and lab QA/QC protocols for the Surveys.

Specific Tasks: The intern could be involved in activities such as:

- Operational support for the Lakes Survey including: providing support for field logistics such as coordinating training sessions on field protocols, tracking sampling crews in summer 2007, and coordinating lab QA/QC activities; providing support in the delineation of watersheds for the lakes included in the Survey using NHDPlus.
- Assisting with planning and implementation of the Survey of the Nation's Rivers including: research and evaluation of field sampling protocols, analysis and interpretation methods for core indicators of ecological condition; design of the rivers survey including identification of core indicators and sampling protocols.
- Assisting with communications and outreach activities in support of the Surveys including: coordination of steering committee and other conference calls with states, EPA Regions, and others regarding the surveys; involvement with planning meetings with states and others to plan/implement the surveys; and involvement with preparing fact sheets, presentations, Web site updates, and related materials for the surveys.
- Intern will have the opportunity to attend up meetings across the country including training sessions/national meetings.

Expected Results: The project will provide excellent exposure to a broad range of environmental and policy issues associated with assessing lakes, large rivers and streams. For example, the intern will learn about a number of assessment issues including what are the key indicators of concern in lakes and large rivers, field and lab protocols that are in widespread use by the states, and approaches for analyzing data sets. The project will also provide an opportunity to use data analysis skills as well as written/oral communication skills to summarize results in a variety of formats for distribution to the public. Through this internship, the interns will have a better understanding of how EPA implements its national program to survey the nation's waters and how it fits into state monitoring programs.

Intern Qualifications and Skills: The applicant should have received a bachelor's or master's degree within three years of the desired starting date, or completion of all requirements for the degree should be expected prior to the starting date in a scientific field emphasizing some aspect of environmental management, including ambient water resource conditions, aquatic biology, limnology, ecology, or natural resources. The applicant should have computer skills including: experience with GIS, database management, manipulation of data in Excel or Access. Knowledge of environmental lab techniques, taxonomic identification and population surveys is desired. Strong oral and written communications skills are essential.

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 residence status is preferred.

Stipend and Tenure: The appointment will initially be for full-time for a one-year period and may be renewed for up to three additional years depending on funding. The annual stipend will range from \$35,000 to \$45,000, depending on experience. Taxes are the responsibility of the intern. Coverage under a medical insurance plan is both required and the responsibility of the applicant. The intern does not become an EPA employee.

The EPA contact person for this project is Susan Holdsworth (holdsworth.susan@epa.gov).

The Internship Program for EPA Water is administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Please reference Project # EPA Water 2006-75 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

Sam Bryant serves as the EPA Office of Water internship program coordinator. His e-mail address is bryant.samuel@epa.gov.

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