

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES INTERNSHIP ENVS 89

Summer 2009

Laura Goldin, goldin@brandeis.edu

781-736-3075

The Environmental Studies Internship Program provides the opportunity for students to experience first-hand actual environmental challenges in government, industry, public interest organizations and research institutions. Students tackle current environmental issues alongside professionals in the field, experiencing the real-life context and application of their course work. The internships also offer the opportunity to gain critical skills and personal growth, and open doors to the world of work and professional development.

Internship placements are individually tailored to support each student's academic goals and experience. All placements require the use of research, writing, analytical and presentation skills in a supervised setting to accomplish specific projects or goals. Weekly online discussions and assignments are designed to provide context, perspective and a substantive basis for the internship experience, and help develop the habit and skills of reflecting on your experience to better connect and integrate your experience to your own learning.

Internship Requirements

- **The placement process:** As early as possible, each student should meet individually with me to identify and set up an appropriate placement. Generally, I will match the students up with a customized placement; however students are welcome to seek their own placements and review these with me for approval. Ideally, all interns should be ready to work in their placements by the beginning of the summer term. In order to obtain an appropriate placement, **each student should prepare a resume and submit a copy to me as soon as possible.** Students are responsible for setting up interviews with potential placements.
- **Hours:** The summer internship runs through both the first and second terms of the Summer School schedule. Students must work in their placement the equivalent of **at least one hundred (100) hours** extending over the course of at least seven of the ten weeks during the course of the summer. Students are responsible for developing an agreed upon, regular work schedule with their supervisors.
- **“Contract”:** Once a student is actively working in the placement and has a general sense of internship projects and goals, we formulate a “contract” regarding any individualized internship requirements accompanying the

placement work, such as targeted readings and research, assignments or other work relating to the internship experience.

- **Online LATTE Seminar:**
The seminar is organized by week, with each student participating in at least three ways:
 - 1) Posting a weekly journal entry to the class, which becomes a portfolio of your internship “journey.”
 - 2) Commenting on the “Questions of the Week” posed by me for discussion on common themes. These range from analyzing aspects of your placement organization and its role in the broader environmental sphere, to exploring your own personal and career goals.
 - 3) Responding directly to at least two other students’ narratives or comments during the week.

- **Final Paper:** All write a 20-25 page final paper. Guidelines are posted on the LATTE site. These should be submitted on the LATTE by August 14.

- **Symposium Presentation:** All interns present their work at the **Environmental Internship Symposium** at the end of the first semester that the student is back on campus. The Symposia are attended by many other students, faculty, staff, internship supervisors, and invited guests. The Symposium presentation is an excellent opportunity to gain strong oral communication skills. Summer interns must participate in the two “practice and critique” preparatory sessions with fellow students prior to the Symposium. These sessions ensure that each student delivers a strong presentation -- carefully prepared and practiced, focused, well-organized and informative.

Grading

- 1) Job supervisor’s and my assessment of student’s performance in internship placement (including commitment, reliability, value of contribution, quality of work, cooperation, use of initiative, communication and other relevant factors): 60%
- 2) Online participation in journaling and discussion, final paper and presentation: 40%

A successful internship requires your commitment and ongoing open communication with your internship supervisor and with me. Please contact me if you have any concerns or questions during the course of your internship.

Notes:

1. If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

2. You are expected to be honest in all your academic work. All words or ideas of another person must be properly cited and identified by quotation marks or other indication. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when specified otherwise. The University policy on academic honesty is in the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.