Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention's
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT)
2017 Fall Intern Volunteer Program

What do volunteers under this program do?

This is a great time to join the OPPT Team. Through this program, you can be a part of implementing the first major update to an environmental law in 20 years.

Our volunteers gain valuable experience in three primary program areas:

- Regulation of toxic substances and chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA);
- Research for the Risk Assessment Division assessing ecological and human exposure;
- EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program under the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA).

Who is eligible?

You must be a U.S. citizen and a full-time graduate, undergraduate student, or Ph.D. candidate seeking a degree in one of the following majors:

- Biology (general and/or with experience in aquatic plants)
- Business Administration
- Chemistry
- Ecology
- Engineering (Chemical, Biomedical, Environmental)
- Environmental Science
- Information Technology (with experience in Adobe Creative Suite, Web applications, social media)
- Marketing/Communications (ideally with a basic science background)
- Molecular and Mechanistic Toxicology
- Pharmacology
- Physical Science
- Physics
- Public Health
- Zoology

What is the typical length of the volunteer opportunity?

Fall volunteers are expected to work for approximately 10 weeks. We plan to recruit up to five volunteers who may work full-time or part-time and a minimum of 20 hours per week.

Are the positions paid? Where are the positions held?

These internship positions are unpaid.

All positions are at EPA Headquarters located in Washington, D.C. Volunteers may apply for a transit subsidy for the cost of public transportation to use for commuting during the tenure of their entire volunteer opportunity.

How do I apply? What is the application deadline?

To be considered for this program, submit a resume, proof of enrollment, transcript, and project description title that you are interested in, preferably as a single Word or PDF file, via e-mail to Kimisha Spear – Program Coordinator of the Student Volunteer Program, at OPPT_SVIP@epa.gov.

The subject line of the email should read – 2017 OPPT FALL INTERN APPLICANT – FIRST AND LAST NAME. There will be a rolling acceptance, and applications may be submitted until **Friday, December 15, 2017**. ***Interviews may be conducted in-person, virtually via Skype or by conference call, depending on the hiring manager's schedule.***

2017 Fall Intern Volunteer Program
Project Description Form

Program Office and Organizational Unit:	Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Risk Assessment Division, Branch 3
Worksite Location of Intern Assignment:	1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460
Supervisor/ Mentor (Can be same contact)	Supervisor: Jafrul Hasan Mentor: Gwen Mcclung
Requested Intern Degree Level	Bachelors or Master's Degree
Description of Developmental Assignment	The Risk Assessment Division (RAD), in OPPT, has an opening supporting various activities of the Biotechnology Technical Team (BTT), which supports Toxic Substance Control Act's (TSCA's): • Microbial Commercial Activity Notices (MCAN) • Experimental Release Applications • Tiered Exemption Biotechnology Assessments. BTT also: • Develops improved biotechnology risk assessment methods • Identifies trends in biotechnology development • Assists in the preparation of policies for TSCA biotech oversight • Prepares new or revised rules for implementation of the TSCA Biotech Program • Provides outreach to the regulated community and the general public. This fall intern/volunteer position will provide basic technical and administrative support to our scientific team as well as initiate the process of updating/revisiting BTT's roles and responsibilities, charter, and 5-yr strategy. In addition, the candidate may aid in one of the following tasks (but not limited to): ● Revisiting "Points to Consider" document for synthetic biology to ensure all the relevant points are there to gather the necessary information for a risk assessment on a submission for a microorganism, including: biocontainment

	strategies; assembly of bio-parts; stability over short-term and long-term; potential for horizontal gene transfer to other microorganisms; and potential for uptake of nucleic acids from other microorganisms into the genetically engineered (GE) microorganisms that could cause reversion to the wild type. ● Research for potential trophic level effects if a GE algae strain was to outcompete indigenous microalgae/cyanobacteria: literature search on aquatic microbial food webs and interactions; literature search specifically on trophic levels (freshwater, brackish, saltwater ecosystems); ● Reviewing Aquatic microcosms for assessing survival and competitiveness -- read, scan, and save the volumes of microcosms development by EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD); literature search for aquatic microcosms; literature search for other aquatic microcosms beyond EPA/ORD labs.
Projected start date: Fall term semester	September – November, dates may vary.
Special Qualifications and/or Previous Experience and Knowledge	• Knowledge of Biology, Genetics/Molecular Biology, and/or Database Mining
Preferred Majors	Life Sciences, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Genetic/Molecular Engineering, Psychology, Ecology, Metabolism, Genomics
Contact for program information	Kimisha Spear, (202)564-1485; OPPT_SVIP@epa.gov

2017 Fall Intern Volunteer Program

Program Office and Organizational Unit:	Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Risk Assessment Division, Branch 2
Worksite Location of Intern Assignment:	1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460
Supervisor/ Mentor	Supervisor: Cathy Fehrenbacher Mentor: Nate Mottl
Requested Intern Degree Level	Bachelors or Master's Degree
Description of Developmental Assignment	This project involves assessing the potential for ecological and human exposure resulting from the use of consumer products containing manufactured nanoparticles by reviewing existing tools, models, and relevant literature. This work involves incorporating environmental fate and exposure information. The research will include reviewing existing sources and information provided by EPA and highlighting data gaps, uncertainties, and limitations. Following review of the data, the fall intern will develop databases for consumer exposure and environmental exposure. The intern will also be expected to compile a report and/or presentation to describe his/her work and to effectively communicate to environmental professionals the research and findings on the state of the science.
Projected start date: Fall term semester	September - November, dates may vary.
Preferred Majors	Science (e.g. Chemist), Engineering.
Contact for program information	Kimisha Spear, (202)564-1485; OPPT_SVIP@epa.gov

Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT)

2017 Fall Intern Volunteer Program

Program Office and Organizational Unit:	Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics/ Toxics Release Inventory Program/ Communications and Outreach Branch
Worksite Location of Intern Assignment:	1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460
Supervisor/ Mentor	Supervisor: Guy Tomassoni Mentor: Nicole Berckes
Requested Intern Degree Level	Bachelors or Master's Degree
Description of Developmental Assignment	The candidate would be supporting EPA's premier community-right-to-know Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program within the Toxics Release Inventory Program Communications and Outreach Branch (TRICOB). (See https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/learn-about-toxics-release-inventory for more background information of the program.) Support data quality and program analyses and associated benefits by: - Supporting an effort to explore and analyze measures that will help the program better understand who is using and benefiting from TRI and related data. - Helping track "mentions" of TRI data in the media (e.g., journals, newspapers, blogs, etc.) and academic articles and reports, and helping to raise internal awareness. - Developing approaches and materials for increasing access, understanding and use of TRI information in typical college and high-school demographics. - Conducting research and analysis as guided by TRI staff and management.
Projected start date: Fall term semester	September – November, dates may vary.
Special Qualifications and/or Previous Experience and Knowledge	• Excellent communicator (written and oral), collaborator, self-starter, Internet researcher, problem solver, Microsoft Word, Excel and Data Visualization (a plus but not essential).

Preferred Majors	Course work and interest in environmental and/or science related areas, and communications.
Contact for program information	Kimisha Spear, (202)564-1485; OPPT_SVIP@epa.gov