

Student Volunteer Internship  
*Health and Ecological Criteria Division (HECD)*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology  
Washington, DC

EPA's Office of Water's Office of Science and Technology (OST) is seeking student volunteers for unpaid internship positions. OST is seeking talented students with the ability to learn new skill sets to join our office.

All internships are located at EPA headquarters offices in downtown Washington, D.C.

**Requirements:**

Applicants must be:

- A U.S. Citizen
- 18 years of age on or before the first day of the internship, and
- Enrolled at least half-time (e.g. six credits per semester for undergraduates) in an undergraduate or graduate program at a college, community college, or university

1. **Time Commitment:** We accept full or part time interns and you should expect to work Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Your start and end dates are flexible
2. **Compensation:** The internships are unpaid. We will provide you with an office phone and a computer, as well as a transit subsidy.

Student Volunteer Program	
Summer 2019	
Applications Accepted	Now
Application Deadline	June 1, 2019
Notifications	On a rolling basis
Start Date	As early as May 1, 2019
End Date	As late as September 30, 2019

**Position Description**

The applicant must be a registered student fulfilling the requirements of a degreed program. Preferred applicants are about to enter into their senior undergraduate year or pursuing a Master's degree. The applicant should have an interest in water issues.

**Health and Ecological Criteria Division**

The summer volunteers selected for these projects will support a variety of work in the Health and Ecological Criteria Division (HECD) depending on their background and professional interests. HECD is responsible for developing national aquatic life and human health criteria as well as drinking water health advisories. We envision that summer volunteers would contribute to one or more of the following projects this summer:

- 1) You could explore and analyze surface water quality data using the statistical software package, R. You will analyze water quality parameters (e.g., nutrients, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, chlorophyll-a) across a variety of waterbody types (e.g., rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries) and

examine how differences in the scales of the data, both temporal and spatial, influence the estimation of certain statistics, such as estimates of central tendency and variation. You will also be asked to contribute to the creation of a user interface in R (called RShiny) that is tailored to a specific water quality model developed in R.

- 2) Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) coordinators in the Office of Science and Technology and the EPA Regions need your help to organize a nationwide webinar on response and preparedness of HABs and their toxins in marine waters to be held in late September. You would also help organize a cyanotoxins preparedness and response table top exercise to be held in Region 10 in October. (note: students do not to be present in September and October to apply for the position) Throughout the summer you will help keep track of HABs events in drinking and recreational waters in the US.
- 3) We are updating our Drinking Water Health Advisory Table and need your help in making it a more informative tool for our users. Interested students would help build background documents for each contaminant on the table. The background documents provide an overview of the available toxicity and exposure information, outline any existing drinking water regulations, and calculate health advisories for the contaminant. Good for detail-oriented students interested in risk assessment and/or toxicology.

**Desired Skills:**

- Undergraduate students with extensive course work in biology, ecology, chemistry, public health, or environmental studies is strongly preferred
- Strong communication & writing skills and the ability to work independently and as part of a group
- Strong investigative research and organizational skills
- Working knowledge of Excel
- One project requires working knowledge of “R” statistical software

The participant will not receive a stipend but a transit subsidy will be provided.

**The participant does not become an EPA employee.**

**How to Apply:**

To apply please send your resume, cover letter, and the opportunity you are interested in to Ashley Harper at [harper.ashley@epa.gov](mailto:harper.ashley@epa.gov)

In the subject line, please reference ‘Student Internship’

**ABOUT THE EPA OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

The mission of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) in EPA’s Office of Water is to provide the best available science, innovative technologies, and environmental economic analysis for states and tribes so that they can assure clean and safe water for their communities. OST works with states, tribes, and other stakeholders to develop recommended safe water quality levels for toxics, nutrients, and

pathogens to help ensure our nation's waters can be used for fishing, swimming, and drinking water. OST also develops national economically and technologically achievable performance standards to address water pollution from industry.