

2020 Spring & Summer Volunteer Internship

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air Policy & Program Support (OAPPS) Washington, DC

POSITION DESCRIPTION

This is an unpaid volunteer internship at the U.S. EPA Headquarters in the Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) Office of Air Policy and Program Support (OAPPS).

Volunteer interns will gain valuable experience in efforts to protect public health and the environment with an emphasis on the Clean Air Act in concert with educational and research interests. The position requires a person with ability to analyze and coordinate international, economics, research, and science issues; engage stakeholders with effective communication and outreach; manage program operations; support top priorities cross-OAR policies and processes; and work independently and/or with small teams.

Volunteer interns may be assigned to work on a specific project or multiple project areas, in addition to contributing to and obtaining insights and exposure to a host of Air Policy and Programmatic issues. Background and majors from various disciplines are anticipated to help fulfill these needs: physical, health and environmental sciences; engineering; business management and organizational design; government, political science, public policy and administration; project management; information technology and computer science; English (writing) and communications; economics; law.

Some of our previous interns have worked on projects related to one or more of the following areas:

- **Congressional relations** – perform legislative analysis, assist with hearing preparation, and track correspondence;
- **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests** – tracked FOIAs and developed best practices;
- **Lean projects** – help streamline aspects of our programs while making them more effective;
- **Research efforts** -- coordinate across programs, monitor progress on products and contribute to outreach efforts in addition to evaluating progress on various science policies;
- **Rulemaking** – assist rule team with tracking and facilitating rulemaking process;
- **Environmental Justice** – collect best practices in states and internationally; and
- **Air Quality research** – assessment and impacts.

Based on office needs, the specific project(s) will be negotiated with the selected volunteer and will be contingent on his or her knowledge, skills, and interests.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

OAPPS is a staff office in the Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR). OAPPS provides cross-program policy and programmatic support to OAR senior leadership and to OAR's stationary source, mobile source, atmospheric program, and radiation/indoor air program offices. Specific responsibilities and activities of the office are organized through six main practice areas including: economics, science policy and research coordination, international activities, program tracking and management, Congressional and stakeholder engagement, and priority projects of senior OAR leadership.

ELIGIBILITY

You must be a U.S. citizen and a full-time undergraduate, graduate or Ph.D. candidate student. A diversity of candidates and fields of study are of interest including degree candidates in the following disciplines: sciences, economics, public policy, public health, engineering, political science, information technology, organizational management, and international policy.

LOGISTICS

We anticipate hosting 1-2 interns this coming spring and summer. Volunteers may work full-time (maximum of up to 40 hours per week) or part-time (minimum of 20 hours per week). Students may elect to volunteer in the spring or summer:

- Spring internships start in late February/early March and end in May/June.
- Summer internships start in late May/early June and end in August.

We recognize, however, that this timeframe may vary due to class schedules, e.g., semester vs. quarters, and will work with individual candidates to refine the timing and duration of an internship as needed. There may be opportunities for tenures to be extended for those local to U.S. EPA Headquarters in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area or interns participating in local area semester study programs.

Our offices are not able to provide financial compensation to its volunteers; however, some students are able to find stipends or grants from outside sources or obtain course credit from their school. Students can apply for transit subsidy benefits, which are used only for commuting to and from work.

HOW TO APPLY

To be considered, you must submit the following information by email as a single Word or PDF file to: Joseph Morris (Morris.Joseph@epa.gov) by **Friday, January 10, 2020**. Please indicate your preference for the spring or summer internship in your cover letter.

- 1) **Cover letter** -- that briefly summarizes
 - a. your interest/qualifications for the position,
 - b. potential project areas of greatest interest and/or relevance based upon prior projects, your experience or interest and fit with OAPPS' role described above, and
 - c. desired timing of internship (spring or summer).
- 2) **Resume**

Please do *not* send references or transcripts at this time. If these materials are deemed necessary once applications are received, they will be specifically requested. We will contact you if you are selected for an interview. Interviews will be held in person, via teleconference or Skype in January or February.

Upon acceptance of an internship offer, volunteers will 1) sign a volunteer agreement that includes proof of enrollment or admittance to a qualifying educational institution; 2) demonstrate that the volunteer experience relates to the student's educational goals; and 3) have the opportunity to apply for transit subsidy (cost of local public transportation during the internship).

Questions may be directed to: Catrice Jefferson at Jefferson.Catrice@epa.gov or (202) 564-1668.

Thank you for your interest in joining our work to improve the environment and protect public health.