IBES Summer 2019 Internship Summaries

The Institute at Brown for Environment and Society has partnered with five Rhode Island environmental organizations to offer paid summer internship experiences for Brown University students. These awards allow students to explore career options and engage in experiential learning activities outside of the classroom.

7 Dedicated Internships - Application opens January 29 and closes February 19, 2019

- Audubon Society of Rhode Island - 1 opening
- City of Providence Office of Sustainability - 1 opening
- Grow Smart Rhode Island - 1 opening
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management - 2 openings
- The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island - 2 openings ($500 housing allowance provided)

Audubon Society of Rhode Island - Policy, Conservation and Education Internship
Selected intern will be assigned a project covering all three of Audubon's areas of focus: Policy, Conservation and Education. This allows them to experience the breadth of a small conservation non-profit's efforts. The work is primarily inside the office, with opportunities to attend meetings with partners among the environmental community.

Selected areas of study will be - Large scale, land-based, wind & solar development, pollinator habitat & health, and green infrastructure.

City of Providence Office of Sustainability - Energy Data Analyst Internship
This internship provides an opportunity for a student to gain experience in Energy Star’s Portfolio Manager, an industry standard for energy management. The individual will work hand-in-hand with the City’s Energy Manager and Building Advisor in collecting, populating and analyzing energy data in support of City efforts in energy efficiency. The internship will provide valuable, hands-on experience in energy data analysis, facility management, and cutting edge local energy policy and programs. The ability to be persistent in data collection and research tasks will play a large role in successfully completing projects.

Grow Smart Rhode Island - Policy Internship
Intern will play a role in the development of Grow Smart RI’s advocacy to encourage subsequent renewable energy siting to follow smart growth principles by giving priority to areas that have already been developed or disturbed, such as landfills, brownfields, roof tops and parking lots, to take the development pressure off RI farms and forests. In addition the intern will be assisting to research applicable policies needed to protect the role of natural resources, particularly the forest, in mitigating the impacts of climate change. Grow Smart is working with broad based stakeholder groups to formulate the policy changes and the intern will have the benefit of participating in these policy discussions. This position requires research and writing, as well as a fair amount of analysis of key proposals in areas of interest.

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Bureau of Environmental Protection Internship
Intern’s position and assignments will be aligned with those of an office within the Bureau (typically Air, Water, or Waste Management), depending on the subject matter that the internship covers. An experienced DEM staff person will be designated as both supervisor and mentor for the work to be performed. Often, internships involve independent research of appropriate reading materials, research of how similar issues are addressed in other jurisdictions, onsite work and discussions at DEM’s Providence headquarters, and may involve occasional field work. The supervisor will outline the expectations of the department, an appropriate time table for milestones and completion of the project, and expected work products and deliverables. They will also hold regular meetings with the intern to provide guidance and check on progress. Additionally, intern will be included in staff meetings, as well as, other meetings with governmental officials and community partners.
Internship will be structured to include a final project or capstone report, and the work product will be used as background material for consideration in DEM environmental policy and decision-making, allowing the student to not only earn valuable experience, but also have a tangible work product from their efforts for future educational and professional pursuits.

Environmental Protection Internship
The intern will be oriented to the different divisions within the Bureau and will be assigned a point person as a supervisor. Some of the orientation will include appropriate reading materials and onsite orientations. The supervisor will outline the expectations of the department, an appropriate time table, and expected deliverables. Supervisor will also hold regular meetings with the intern to provide guidance and check on progress. Additionally, intern will be included in staff meetings, as well as, other meetings with governmental officials and community partners. The supervisor will be a mentor and will also provide additional mentors from different fields within the Bureau.

The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island - Coastal Restoration Internship
As part of the Rhode Island Coastal Restoration Team, interns will assist with ongoing and future coastal restoration and monitoring projects. Work locations will include the Providence River Estuary and the coastal ponds along southern RI. Interns will be responsible for learning about and assisting with field and laboratory operations, data collection, and analysis. Field work for this project is often weather dependent and thus requires a flexible schedule, including early start times and long days. Interns will have the opportunity to learn and participate directly on cutting edge restoration projects, working with the Coastal Restoration Scientist, the Coastal Restoration Technician, the Policy and Partnership Coordinator, and the Associate State Director. They will also have the opportunity to interface with staff from both the RI Department of Environmental Management and faculty from other local universities. There will be ample time for interns to question, discuss, and learn from the staff about all aspects of their approach to coastal restoration.