

Offering an “Internship in Environmental Science” (An overview for potential supervisors)

Revised: November 20, 2018

What is the Internship in Environmental Science?

The Internship is a way that UNBC Environmental Science students obtain hands-on experience with industry, academia, government or non-governmental organizations.

Why Supervise an Internship Student?

Your organization will benefit from hosting an Internship student through their enthusiastic contribution to your organization’s environmental problem solving. Students benefit through exposure to actual and current environmental issues and challenges.

What are the Characteristics of an Internship?

- Costs: Interns can volunteer or be paid; hosts are expected to provide the resources required to successfully complete Internship projects.
- Flexible timing: Can be conducted anytime during the year; can be part-time.
- Short term: Projects are normally conducted part-time over a 3-4 month period.
- Who is involved: Internship student, Supervisor (from industry, government, academia or a non-governmental organization), and the UNBC Environmental Science Internship Coordinator (see details below).
- Topics (not limited to): environmental monitoring, conducting experimental work (lab or field), developing environmental sustainability or waste management strategies, analyzing environmental data sets, conducting literature reviews, developing potential solutions to environmental challenges, testing new methodologies or equipment, etc.
- Examples of Past Projects:
 - ❖ Development of an Environmental Spill Response Protocol for a BC Mine
 - ❖ Analysis of Meteorological Data in the Ancient Forest
 - ❖ Potential of Organic Waste Diversion in Regional District of Fraser Fort George
 - ❖ Feasibility of Climate-Based Seedling Transfer in Selected Areas of central BC
 - ❖ Evaluation of PM2.5 Air Monitoring Equipment
 - ❖ Bioremediation of Dilute Drilling Wastes from NE BC
- Academic Requirement: Interns are required to spend a minimum of 75 hours on the academic aspect of their Internship. Academic content requires students to gather information, synthesize or analyze information, and write up in a final report. For example, an Intern at a regional landfill may spend ~ 15% of their time developing some exploratory options for the recycling of food waste. This could involve a literature review, interviews with landfill managers, synthesizing findings and making recommendations in a final report.
- Reporting requirement: A final report is a requirement of the Internship.

What are the Supervisor's Responsibilities?

- ✓ Develops Internship project (with the potential Intern and Coordinator), including objectives, timeline and expected deliverables (e.g. final report)
- ✓ Supervises the Intern and provides resources needed to conduct and complete the Internship
- ✓ Reviews final report and in collaboration with Coordinator assigns a grade (pass/fail) for the Internship that will appear on Intern's UNBC transcript
- ✓ Works with UNBC to develop a confidentiality agreement (if needed)

How is the Internship Structured?

Students register for UNBC ENSC 440-3 (the Internship) just like any other course; they are eligible after completing 60 credits (i.e. after 2nd year). The Internship involves: (i) the Intern, (ii) the Supervisor and (iii) the UNBC Environmental Science Internship Coordinator. The Supervisor may be from industry, government, academia or a non-governmental organization. The Internship Coordinator communicates the requirements of the Internship to the Intern and the Supervisor, and assists the Supervisor with the assessment of the Internship as well as the submission of a course grade (ENSC 440 is pass / fail).

How does the Internship Compare to Co-op?

A co-op work term is typically a 4-month full-time paid position, while the Internship is usually part time, 75 hours of work, and can be paid or unpaid. With program permission and acceptance into the co-op program, Environmental Science students can register in both co-op and ENSC 440-3, and as long as they meet the requirements of both co-op and the Internship they can obtain ENSC 440-3 credit while doing a co-op work term.

What is the UNBC Environmental Science B.Sc. Degree?

The degree is an interdisciplinary one in which students take a core curriculum along with an area of specialization (students are required to take a minor in an area of their choice). The core curriculum is designed to provide students with knowledge in fundamental biological, chemical, physical and practical aspects integral to the field of environmental science. In addition, students receive exposure to many of the human dimensions that underlie environmental issues. See <https://www.unbc.ca/calendar/undergraduate/environmental-science> for more information.

Questions?

Do you represent an agency who might be able to provide an Internship opportunity? If so, please contact the current Internship Coordinator at environmental.science@unbc.ca so we can answer any questions and add you to our email list (EnvSci-Intern@unbc.ca) that connects students with potential Internship supervisors.

More details on the Internship are in the student handbook link at:

<https://www.unbc.ca/environmental-science>.