

Department of Geography, Planning and Environment Master of Environment (Environmental Assessment) Internship Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an internship exactly?

- An internship is a 18 credit academic course conducted in the workplace, ENVS 696: An experiential learning exercise enabling the intern to learn first-hand about their chosen profession.

DEFINITION – Canadian Association for Cooperative Education (CAFCE):

An internship = 4 month minimum, paid, full-time, relevant, supervised work

Where are the jobs?

- Most internships are located in Ottawa. Internships in Environmental Assessment can be found at all levels of government (Federal, Provincial and Municipal) as well as in many International Agencies (UN/NAFTA/EU), non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) and private corporations.

Who finds the job?

- Student interns are encouraged to look for relevant work on their own. Once they have identified a position that meets program requirements and have secured an offer, they are required to bring it to the Coordinator.

Who hires? Some of the employers who have hired our interns in the last 48 months are

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Environment Canada
Transport Canada
Office of the Auditor General of Canada
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
National Capital Commission (NCC)
Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Ericsson Canada
David Suzuki Foundation

UNEP/SCBD Convention on Biological Diversity
Commission for Environmental Cooperation
Quebecor Media
Energy Mines and Resources, Lands & Resources, Yukon
D & G Enviro-Group Inc.
Bombardier Aerospace
Northwest Territories, Environment and Natural Resources
Pollution Probe

and more...

Do Interns get paid?

- For most of the internship, students get paid or will receive an honorarium; with the exception of nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations.

Are there Co-op fees to pay in order to participate?

- Unlike other universities with similar programs, we do **not** charge co-op fees.

Must I be Canadian to qualify?

- Positions posted through our program in the Federal and Provincial government are classified as *reserved for Canadian Citizens* or (in some cases) *Permanent Residents*. International students may be eligible for internships with IGOs, NGOs, and Private Corps; and they are eligible to work in relevant positions available in their home country.

What if I want to work abroad?

- Students interested in an international option should discuss this early in the program with the Coordinator and begin their own search efforts as soon as possible. It is important to note that the job application process normally occurs the semester before the internship begins. This leaves little time for an employer or a student to organize an internship overseas.

Can I look for a job on my own?

- Students are asked to check with the coordinator before looking for work within the Federal government on their own. Student interns are to work through the Coordinator for access to any Federal (including Crown Corps) positions/depts. Students interested in pursuing positions with an NGO or an IGO, and Private sector are free to initiate an independent search.

What is the work like?

- Students secure positions that enable them to further develop their skills in research and analysis. Some typical titles/positions define the work as *Junior Environmental Assessment Officer* or *Audit and Evaluation Intern*. All internship positions are reviewed by the program to ensure that they are relevant and at the appropriate academic level to promote learning and development. An academic agreement is drawn-up to ensure that all parties (University, Employer, Student) understand the parameters of the position and the expectations necessary to complete the internship.

Am I guaranteed a job?

- Although we do not guarantee a placement, we have witnessed a high success rate in our placements over the years. The market fluctuates depending on the economy. The availability and competition for internships play a key role in defining placement success every semester.

Am I competing against other students?

- You will be competing for positions with other students in your program as well as from other universities. The Concordia MEnv advantage is that with the internship being at the end of your studies, there is a stronger possibility of continued employment!

How do you measure a successful internship?

- Graduation – successful completion of internship Report and defense
- Internship renewal offered and Bridging-in offered (full-time position secured) if the economic climate permits it

What is expected of me academically while I am completing my internship?

- To receive credit for ENVS 696, students are required to complete a 4 month internship placement and write an Internship Report.

The final grade will be comprised of the following components:

- Successful completion of 4-month internship placement
- Approval of Internship Report
- Approval of Internship Oral Presentation



Please make an appointment to meet with our Internship Coordinator
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Tuesday to Friday