

Environmental Studies Institute Internship or Directed Research Experience

All Environmental Science and Environmental Studies majors are required to complete an Internship or a Directed Research experience. **ES majors must enroll in either ENVS 198 or 199 to receive course credit for these experiences.**

Purpose: The purpose of the internship or directed research experience is to give you the opportunity to experience practical applications of the knowledge and skills you have acquired in your academic courses. Internship experiences should also help you to explore possible career options related to environmental studies and make professional contacts.

How to find an internship: Internships involve a supervisor outside of the university. Many students use the web or their personal contacts to locate a suitable internship. The ESI office also keeps an up to date binder of internship announcements that you can come browse, and some of these opportunities are posted on the ESI website at <http://www.scu.edu/envs/undergrad/undergrad-internships.html>. Other options include the School for Field Studies (SFS), American University in Washington, DC, and various international programs. If you are a declared major or minor, you will periodically receive email announcements of internship opportunities as well.

How to find a directed research experience: Directed research is done under the supervision of a SCU faculty member. You may approach faculty from any department to see if they are willing to supervise your project, but the work must be related to an environmental issue, subject to the approval of the ESI director. A good place to find names of faculty who have interests related to the environment is <http://www.scu.edu/envs/whoweare/whoweare-facultyandstaff.html>.

Completing the paperwork to receive course credit: Prepare a written description of the proposed course for review by the ESI director in the fifth week of the term preceding the start of the project. At that time, we will determine how many units your experience merits – the number of units depends on hours worked, but also the type of work performed.

Requirements for completion of ENVS 198 or 199 units: A paper describing your experience and an evaluation from your supervisor are required. At a minimum, you should write up a summary of your assignment and specific duties, and reflect upon your thoughts and feelings about the experience. Be sure to address:

1. What new insights, skills or knowledge did you gain from your internship experience?
2. What aspects (courses, presentations, etc) of the environmental science/studies curriculum did you draw upon during your experience? Is there something you wish you had studied before starting your experience? Is there some topic that you have been inspired to study further?
3. How has this experience impacted your personal or academic life? career goals?
4. Would you recommend this type of experience to your peers? Why or why not?

If you perform research or produce any sort of report or presentation as part of your experience, an extra copy should be submitted to the ESI office for our files. For internships, the requirement of a report is to be negotiated at the start of your experience. For directed research experiences, a report is always required.