



DEQ Internship Program

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provides internship opportunities for undergraduate and graduate college students who are interested in experiencing the day-to-day operations of a regulatory agency. DEQ is a state department created by the Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act to ensure clean air, water, and land in the state and protect Idaho citizens from the adverse health impacts of pollution.

The goal of the internship is to provide an opportunity for students to apply knowledge gained in the classroom to a real-world, professional work setting. The internship is usually structured around a classroom or academic schedule, has a specific start and end date, is reserved for students, and is subject to academic approval and/or oversight. Some internship positions provide hourly pay for students; others do not. The critical values of an internship are the experience gained and contacts made.

Internship duties must be meaningful, related to the student's major, and at or near the student's education level. Assigned tasks should match the student's appropriate college level. Tasks will vary and may include the following:

- **First-Year Student:** Gathering, analyzing, and entering data; maintaining a database; preparing reports; researching; assisting with field work; monitoring; and conducting public outreach activities.
- **Second/Third-Year Student:** Assisting in the Director's Office during legislative session. For engineering majors, reviewing submitted plan and specifications and engineering reports from consultants for completeness; rejecting incomplete submittals; logging project documents into databases; and reviewing engineering documents for compliance with state regulations.
- **Third/Fourth-Year Student:** Conducting plan and specification reviews for engineering programs; coordinating plan submittals with industry and technical services; managing data; conducting sanitary surveys; performing air quality pollution source reviews, and conducting compliance activities, airshed planning, and outreach.

Internships require approximately 45 hours of work for each hour of academic credit awarded. Students generally work from 15 to 20 hours per week during a semester. Interns may work full-time during vacations and the summer break. The internship must be done in the same semester the student is seeking and receiving academic credit.

As a state agency, DEQ supports Idaho's educational institutions and recognizes the value of well planned, need-based, and equitable internship opportunities. Internships may provide us a "grow your own" opportunity while building name recognition for DEQ in the environmental academic arena. With these thoughts in mind, DEQ management is encouraged to pursue internship opportunities whenever and wherever possible.

DEQ offers internships in the following technical areas:

- Environmental Engineering (Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems)
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Regulatory Environmental Science - National Environmental Protection Act Reviews
- Environmental Public Relations (Outreach)

Visit <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/about-deq/working-at-deq/> for available internship opportunities.

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