Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2019

Internship Title: Science Communication Perennial Intern

Internship Site: Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Davis 2, National Life Building, Montpelier

*Students can commute to the Montpelier Agency of Natural Resources National Life Campus, using the GMTA Montpelier LINK Express [https://ridegmt.com/montpelier-link-express-86/] which is free for UVM students using their CATcard.*

Description:

As the Science Communications coordinator, the applicant will work closely with the Agency’s Director of Communications to develop and distribute engaging stories about environmental projects, regulations, and research going on at the Agency. The coordinator will also be an active member of the Agency’s communications team, collaborating with various team members on scientific storytelling projects.

The Coordinator’s primary role will involve working closely with scientists to identify and develop interactive, visual stories that convey complex scientific concepts to a public audience. The Coordinator will work with the Director of Communications to pitch these stories to the media, incorporate them into press releases and blog posts, develop social media posts, and repurpose content for Agency websites.

The Science Communications coordinator may also be involved in organizing a public outreach event or a series of smaller public outreach events throughout their internship. The goal of the event(s) will be to use an approachable venue and format to introduce Vermonters to the scientific research happening across the Agency.

Specific projects may include:

(1) DEC staff play a critical role in helping Vermonters navigate complex environmental regulations. The Coordinator will go out in the field with Agency scientists to participate in the work they do – ranging from acid rain monitoring, measuring phosphorus impacts on water quality, ensuring oil storage tanks do not leak into the groundwater, or visiting brownfield sites. The Coordinator would then develop ways to effectively communicate this work into understandable, bite-size stories for the general public.

(2) Working with an Agency Rivers Program scientist to visit a variety of sites where dam removal is occurring. The coordinator would work with scientists to develop a larger storyline for why these removals make a difference for human and natural communities. This includes examining the scientific work, gaining a larger picture of the environmental and social impact, and developing compelling narratives of how these dam removals helped a homeowner stay safe in a flood or how one removal helped an entire species of fish flourish again. This might look like developing a short video for social media, a guest column in a local paper, or developing a pitch to present to a reporter that invites them into the field to witness this work firsthand.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Ability to clearly and consistently communicate complex scientific content in an understandable way to a
non-technical audience

- Experience creating videos, blogs, essays, and/or social media posts
- Confidence in creating and hosting public events
- Creative mindset
- Ability to work independently
- Proven public-speaking skills
- Good collaborative interpersonal skills that will allow applicant to interact with a variety of agency staff on a regular basis to produce quality content

**Supervision:** Director of Communications will host the intern. The intern’s desk will be next to the Director’s. In addition to regular weekly check-ins, the Director will work with the intern daily to complete storytelling projects.

**Start and End Dates:** June 1 to August 15, but dates are negotiable.

**Total Hours:** 20 hours/week, 12 weeks

**Compensation:** $12.50/hour

*Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by May 2019 are eligible to apply. Rubenstein students can apply for up to 3 Perennial Internships. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program will be required.*

**How to apply:**

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internships in Handshake ([https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837](https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837))
   a. If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login
   b. Click the Favorite button to enable easier searches in the future
2. Click “View All Jobs” in Jobs at Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program box on right side of page
3. You should now see the great Perennial internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.
   a. Please do take the time to read through each individual description so that you don’t miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title
   b. You may apply for up to three Perennial Internships
   c. All applications are due by midnight, Wednesday, January 30th, 2019
4. You’ll need to upload all required documents in Handshake in order to apply for any Perennial Internship:
   a. Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
   b. Select Documents
5. Please upload documents as pdfs whenever possible. The following are required documents:

   i. Resume

   ii. Cover Letter - You should write & upload unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying

   iii. Transcript - Login to your my uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload

   iv. Other Required Documents - Reference(s) & Position Ranking - in one document, please include & upload:

      1. Reference(s) – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc

      2. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, provide a list of the positions in rank order

6. In addition to the documents you’ll submit, a recommendation form needs to be completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student or staff member of your choosing. Please provide your recommender this link to the recommendation form when you ask if they are willing to complete the form to support your application.

   a. Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you’re applying for. This recommendation form needs to be completed by the January 30th deadline.

   b. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially added to your application(s).

7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:

   a. The Rubenstein Stewards are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback – stop by Aiken 219.

   b. Stop by Anna Smiles-Becker’s (Rubenstein Career Counselor & Internship Coordinator) office (Aiken 220G) to sign up for a resume/cover letter review appointment.

   c. Visit the The Hub, 1st Floor Davis Center Mondays-Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 10am-3pm.

8. A team of Rubenstein faculty and staff will be reviewing all submitted applications and forwarding materials onto each Perennial site. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during early-mid March.