Overview

Internships provide an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, gain valuable work experience, and make key contacts in the field. The Career Development Program at the Bren School places a strong emphasis on professional development and expects students to complete internships during the summer between their first and second years of study. Also, internships have been instrumental in helping many students land positions after graduation. For the MESM Class of 2015, every student completed an internship during Summer 2014.

Where do MESM Students Intern?

Through the Bren School’s comprehensive internship program, students in the MESM Class of 2015 secured internships in a variety of organizations, sectors, and locations. Below are examples of the organizations for which our students have interned in the last two years:

- Google
- Fox Studios
- Los Angeles Food Policy Council
- The Sustainability Consortium
- Allen Construction
- Environmental Defense Fund
- American Honda Motor Co.
- USAID
- Burbank Water and Power
- Fuscoe Engineering, Inc.
- World Wildlife Fund
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Patagonia
- Deckers Outdoor Corporation
- National Parks Service/Net Impact
- DUDEK
- Apple
- Los Padres ForestWatch
- The Nature Conservancy
- Earthmind
- Industrial Ecology Research Services
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Infinity Windpower
- Conservation International
- DNV KEMA Sustainability
- Colorado State Land Board
- Toyota
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Kaiser Permanente
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Internships by Sector

The table on the right shows the breakdown by sector of internships recently completed by MESM classes (2015, 2014, and 2013).

Geographic Location of Internships

MESM students in the Class of 2015 spent their summers in a variety of locations across the United States and around the world. Within the U.S. students interned outside of California in Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, DC, and West Virginia. International internships took students to China, Ecuador, India, the Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, and Uganda. Overall, 15% of the internships completed by the MESM Class of 2015 were international.

Internship Duration and Compensation

Most internships completed by the MESM Class of 2015 lasted over 10 weeks, with many lasting from 12-14 weeks. A large percentage of MESM 2015 students (61%) received pay for their internships, with the bulk of remaining students receiving funding in the form of a fellowship.

Interested in Learning More?

Learn more about the Bren School Career Development Team’s Internship Program and read about students’ experiences going abroad by visiting the Internships web page at http://www.bren.ucsb.edu/career/internships.html.

Internship Quick Facts

- 99% of MESM 2015 internships received some form of funding for their summer internships.
- 78% of MESM 2015 internships were Bren-facilitated.
- 69% of MESM 2015 internships were full-time positions.

The Career Development Team searched day and night for high caliber internships that could provide good foundations for our careers. They made sure we found an internship we were excited about that would also help us understand the sector we were exploring.

Brenda Ponton, MESM 2013
Completed internships with the California Coastal Commission and the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration