Chesapeake StREAM Internship

Toxic Contaminant Workgroup Research Outcome – Per-and polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS aka "Forever Chemicals") in Resources of the Chesapeake Bay Region

The Chesapeake-Student Recruitment, Early Advisement, and Mentoring program (C-StREAM) is a collaboratively funded effort that develops and trains a diverse population of future leaders in environmental research, restoration, and protection by engaging them over multiple years in mentored engagement experiences. The program focuses on recruiting future leaders from populations historically excluded from the environmental field and currently under-represented in environmental research and management professions.

Project Description

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Maryland-Delaware-DC (MD-DE-DC) Water Science Center (https://www.usgs.gov/centers/md-de-dc-water) and Chesapeake Research Consortium (www.chesapeake.org) seek a C-StREAM summer intern for late May through mid-August (12 weeks) to support ongoing efforts related to better understanding per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) or "forever chemicals" in resources of the Chesapeake Bay. The USGS is a federal science agency that conducts impartial, interdisciplinary research and monitoring on a large range of natural-resource issues that impact the quality of life of citizens and wildlife throughout the Chesapeake Bay region and beyond. Staff at the USGS MD-DE-DC are part of a leadership team that support the goal to ensure that the Bay and its rivers are free of the effects of toxic contaminants such as PFAS on living resources and human health, as specified in the Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

This intern will be working with USGS scientists to support the Chesapeake Bay Program's Toxic Contaminant Workgroup efforts. The presence of PFAS in the environment is of increasing concern in the Watershed due to the highly toxic properties at very low concentrations, their persistence, and their widespread occurrence. The science and policy of these contaminants in the environment and their effects on fish, shellfish, and wildlife are rapidly evolving and are a high priority to stakeholders.

Opportunities

This internship will provide a unique opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the highly relevant, emerging topic of "forever chemicals" in the Chesapeake Bay region. Facilitated through the USGS, the intern will gain experience within a large-scale, long-term Partnership across the 64,000 square-mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. Working with the

partnership, the C-StREAM student will gain experience in natural resource data collection, analysis and management, restoration science, and environmental policy. In addition, this internship experience will provide insights into careers in natural resource management, policy development, and science beyond those applied for and allows students to make connections with established environmental management and science professionals.

Responsibilities and Deliverables

- Participate and support Toxic Contaminant Workgroup monthly meetings with the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership
- Review documents that outline the strategy and actions related to "forever chemicals" in the Chesapeake Bay as part of the Toxic Contaminant Workgroup
- Identify which area(s) most align with personal interests and goals for the summer experience. Examples include but are not limited to scientific literature reviews, georeferenced inventories of ongoing studies in the Watershed, field and analytical method inventories and summaries, and risk communication.
- Present findings internally and to other partners that will be involved as well.
- Presentation at the C-StREAM end-of-summer student symposium.

Requirements

- Interest in environmental science, communication, Geographic Information Systems/mapping application, and/or community engagement.
- Basic science experience is desired but not required.
- Motivated self-starter with the ability to work and reason independently.
- Must be a college-level student entering sophomore, junior, or senior year of undergraduate study. Students are also eligible to participate during the immediate summer following their graduation if they pursue graduate studies in the fall.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen and willing to undergo a security background check.

Work Location and Duration

This position will be in person with options for remote work as needed. This in-person and virtual opportunity will be based out of the USGS Water Science Center Program Office. The internship is scheduled to begin on May 22, 2023 and end Friday, August 11, 2023. These are our preferred dates, but the dates can be adjusted to accommodate a student's school schedule if required. We plan to provide intern access to a USGS computer, email, and phone services if this internship is offered in person. If the internship is virtual, interns will need to have access to suitable internet, computer, and communication resources.

Compensation
The intern will be reimbursed at the end of each month (June, July, and August), for a total of up to $6,000 ($500/week) for the equivalent of 12 weeks (480 hours) of full-time activities. Candidates should expect to follow a normal weekday work schedule (roughly 9-5, M-F) with occasional variations for possible fieldwork or other activities. No benefits are provided. We help arrange local housing if the position is an in-person opportunity. A one-time housing and transportation allowance of $1,000 is available to each intern to assist with living and transportation expenses. Funds are also available to compensate interns for occasional work-related travel and professional development activities.

Application Instructions
Application instructions required materials, and the C-StREAM application portal can be found on the C-StREAM website (http://chesapeake.org/c-stream/).

The deadline for applications is February 21, 2022.