

## 2023 Professional Master's Degree Summer Experience Report

### Executive Summary

Professional master's students seeking summer experiences in the summer of 2023 have started to venture back out into a wider range of opportunities. Ninety-six percent (96%) of Nicholas School professional master's students, Master of Environmental Management (MEM) and Master of Forestry (MF), known to be seeking opportunities reported securing a meaningful summer experience. This report contains data on these experiences, broken down by sector and program area.

### Background, Audience, & Methods

**Background:** The Nicholas School professional master's degree program highly recommends a meaningful summer experience for current students. These experiences, historically called internships, typically occur for 8-12 weeks in the summer between academic years when returning to a full-time degree program the following fall semester. They could be full-time or part-time in duration.

In 2023, summer student experiences also included project-based remote work, research projects, fellowships related to academic coursework, and professional experiences that may extend beyond the summer months. For these purposes, the broader term "summer experience" is used in this report.

**Audience:** The Nicholas School Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) surveyed 163 rising second- or third- year Master of Environmental Management (MEM), Master of Environmental Management or Forestry/Master of Business Administration (MEM or MF/MBA), Master of Environmental Management/Master of Engineering Management (MEM/E-MGT), Master of Environmental Management/Master of Public Policy (MEM/MPP), Master of Environmental Management/Juris Doctor (MEM/JD), Master of Environmental Management/Master of City and Regional Planning (MEM/MCRP), and/or Master of Forestry (MF) students. As the Duke Environmental Leadership Master of Environmental Management (DEL-MEM) students are working environmental professionals, the majority generally do not seek summer experiences, but those who respond to the survey are included.

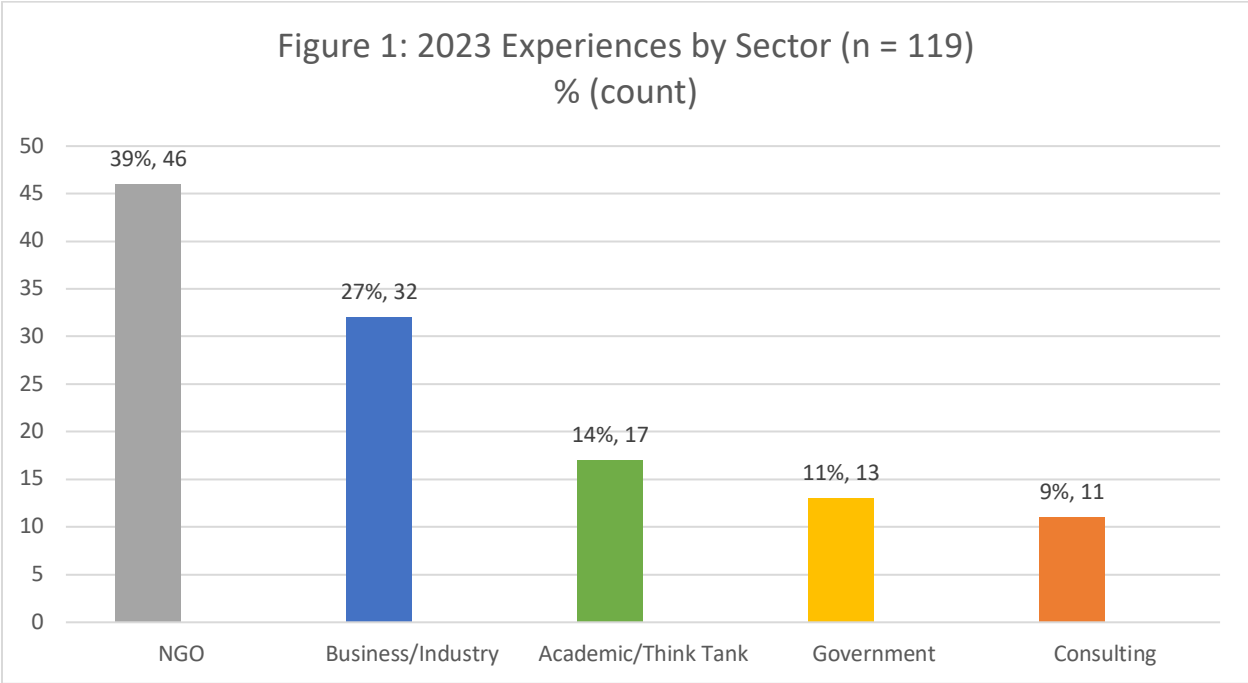
**Methods:** CPDC created and distributed a survey that was sent to the identified audience of 163 students in June 2023 and received 131 survey responses (80% completion rate). Requests for survey completion were followed by online research and email contacts requesting confirmation of summer experience information. Augmented by this knowledge, CPDC obtained information or responses from an additional 16 individuals, for a total of 147 students (90% of the identified audience). *Results Section 1* looks at trends for all survey respondents, and *Results Section 2* provides information by sector, concentration(s), and degree(s) from students who elected to share information via the survey. Ten students were not included in the analysis because they either reported not needing or seeking an experience, or information on their experience could not be obtained by online research or email contact.

# Results Section 1: General Trends

This section of the report analyzes the 147 out of 153 (96%) experiences students known to be seeking experiences reported or were known to have in Summer 2023.

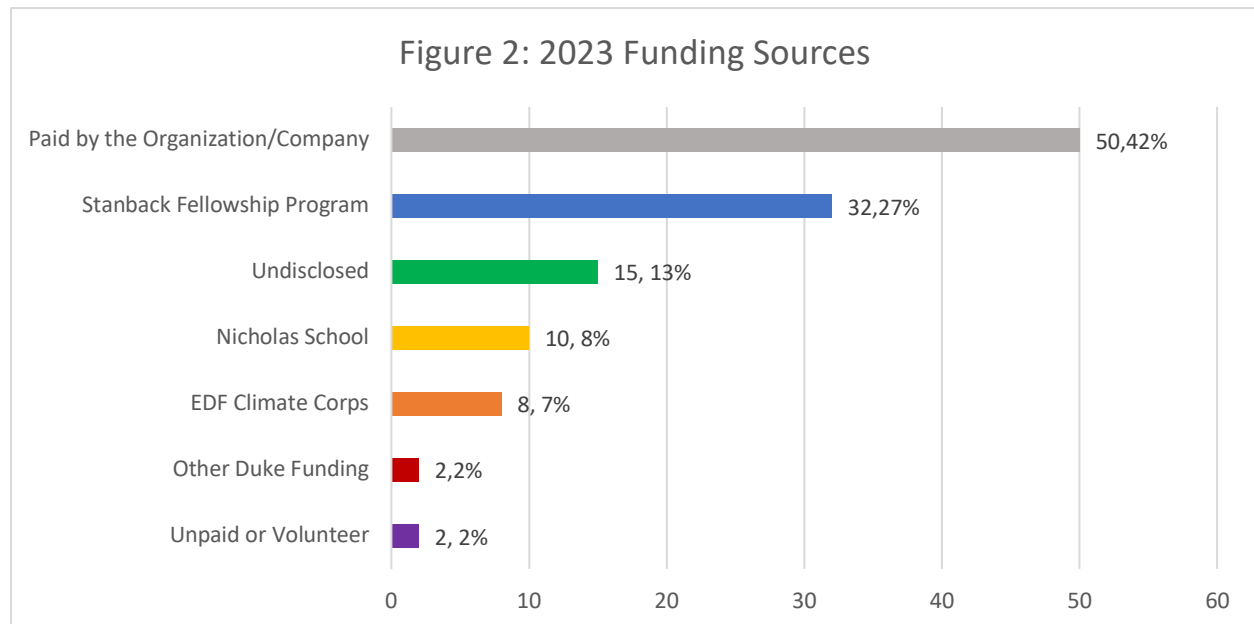
Figure 1: Distribution by Sector

Private sector hosts (Business/Industry = 27% and Consulting = 9%) and NGOs (39%) accounted for 72% of 2023 summer experience hosts. Consulting firms stayed consistent to percentages reported last year in 2022. The Stanback Fellowship Program (SFP) accounted for 67% of the NGO summer experiences.



## Figure 2. Funding Sources

Duke University sources either partially or fully supported at least 37% of summer experiences. For the third straight year, companies or programs providing funding for summer experiences was a higher percentage of funding than Duke-related funds. Nevertheless, the value of this support to individual students remains high.



In its 27<sup>th</sup> year, the [Stanback Fellowship Program](#) (SFP) provided partial funding for Duke students matched with select non-profit hosts for ~11 weeks. The Stanback Fellowship Program consistently accounts for 20-30% of summer experiences. Additional support was made possible by awards from the Edna B. Sussman Foundation, the David R. Brower Fund, the Whitney E. Chamberlain Fund, the Karen Kirchof Internship Fund, and the Kuzmier-Lee-Nikitine (KLN) Fund. 2023 represents the last year the Edna B. Sussman Foundation funding will be available to Nicholas School students as the program announced it is ending after 37 successful years and over 1.1 million dollars in awards made to Duke students.

## Figures 3 and 4. Physical Locations

Experiences ranged from policy or data analysis to business sustainability to field-based experiences in a range of locations and for employers across the globe. United States locations included California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia. In 2023, 44% of survey question respondents reported a remote or hybrid experience, a decrease from the 66% in Summer 2022. The work style color scheme indicates whether the student was in a state and conducted in-person work (yellow), remote work from that state (blue), or a hybrid work arrangement (green).

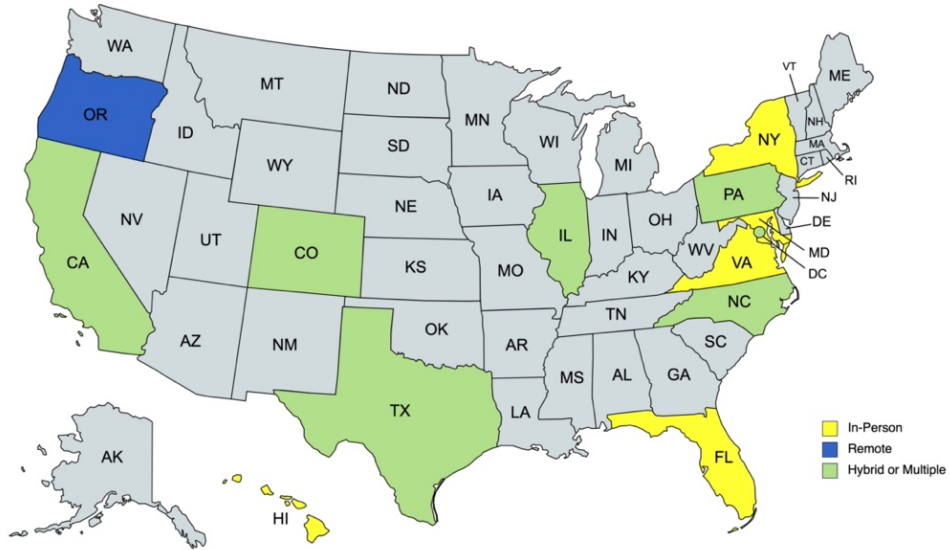


Figure 3: Locations in the United States, 2023

Created with mapchart.net

Figure 4 illustrates the eight students known to have in-person international experiences (red). These include Chile, China (3), Gabon (3), and New Zealand.



Created with mapchart.net

Figure 4. International locations, 2023

Primary Concentration*	Host	Sector	Title
<b>Business and Environment (BE)</b>			
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	McKinsey	Consulting	Summer Associate
	3R Sustainability	Consulting	ESG Assessment Reviewer
	Children's National Hospital	NGO (EDF Climate Corps)	Climate Corps Fellow
	U.S. Green Building Council Center for Green Schools	NGO (non-Stanback)	Healthy Schools Communication and Outreach Intern
	EE Dogwood Alliance	NGO (Stanback)	Climate Fellow
	MBA Crowley Maritime	Private	Offshore Wind Intern
	MBA Land of Sky Regional Council, Waste Reduction Partne	Private	Summer Associate
	Matthews International Corporate	Private	Sustainability Intern
	MBA Ultra Beauty	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	Sustainability Strategy Fellow
Genesys	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	Sustainability Intern	
<b>Coastal Environmental Management (CEM)</b>			
Master of Forestry (MF)	NOAA's Southeast Regional Office	Federal Government (US)	Protected Species Division - Marine Mammal Branch Intern
	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Federal Government (US)	Junior Acoustician with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Passive Acoustic Research Group
	NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center	Federal Government (US)	Marine Turtle Ecology and Assessment Sussman Fellow
	Duke University Marine Lab (Silliman Lab)	Higher Education (Duke)	Research Technician
	Unique Places to Save (UP2S)	NGO (non-Stanback)	Conservation Intern
	The Nature Conservancy	NGO (non-Stanback)	GIS Stewardship Intern
	Park Institute of America / National Park Service	NGO (non-Stanback)	Climate Adaptation of Historic Structures Intern
	Conservation International Hawai'i	NGO (non-Stanback)	Sustainable Seafood Intern
	North Carolina Coastal Federation	NGO (Stanback)	Coastal Policy and Restoration Fellow
	Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic	NGO (Stanback)	Science and Policy Fellow
Three Rivers Land Trust	NGO (Stanback)	Baseline Inventory Specialist	
<b>Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health (EEH)</b>			
	US Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Government (US)	Pathways Intern/Student Trainee
	Superfund Centre	Higher Education (Duke)	Superfund Center Intern
<b>Energy and Environment (EE)</b>			
MBA	ICF	Consulting	Energy Analyst
	Converge Strategies	Consulting	Energy Resilience Fellow
	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Federal Government (US)	Energy Industry Analyst Intern

	Sanford School of Public Policy	Higher Education (Duke)	Research Assistant
	MBA Summit County government, UT	Local Government (EDF Climate Corps)	Climate Corps Fellow
Master of Public Policy (MPP)	NC Sustainable Energy Association	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Energy Data Fellow
MBA	SELC	NGO (Stanback)	Energy Policy Intern
	The Rachel Carson Council	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Renewable Energy Policy Fellow
	Environmental Defense Fund	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Natural Infrastructure and climate intern
	Marathon Capital LLC	Private	Summer Analyst
	Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC	Private	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
MBA	8 Rivers Capital, LLC	Private	Business Development Intern
	Cerberus Capital Management	Private	ESG Intern
	CICC	Private	ESG Intern
MBA	ARPA-E	Private	Technology-to-Market Summer Scholar
	NextEra Energy Resources	Private	Market Analysis Intern
	East Point Energy	Private	Power Market Analyst Summer Associate
MBA	MetOx Technologies	Private	Summer Strategy Associate
	Knorr Bremse, New York Air Brake	Private	Energy Intern
	CICC Global Institute	Private	Research Assistant
EEP, MPP	Starbucks	Private	Clean Energy Fellow
	Delorean Power	Private	Energy Storage Development Intern
	S&P Global	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	Corporate Responsibility Intern

**Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP)**

Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP)	Arcadis	Consulting	Resilience Intern
	National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Federal Government (US)	Distribution Utility Resilience Intern
	EPA	Federal Government (US)	Intern with Air Economics Group
	Data-Driven EnviroLab, UNC-Chapel Hill	Higher Education (non-Duke)	Research Assistant
	Zealandia	NGO (non-Stanback)	Visiting Researcher
	Environmental Defense Fund	NGO (non-Stanback)	2023 Climate Corps Fellow
MF	Public Lands Policy Group of Colorado State University	NGO (non-Stanback)	Research Associate
MBA	National Parks Conservation Association	NGO (non-Stanback)	Duke Biodiversity Fellow
	Southern Environmental Law Center	NGO (Stanback)	Southeast Regional Environmental Justice Statutory, Policy & Regulatory Research Stanback Fellowship
	Park Institute of America	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Conservation Research Fellow
	Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic	NGO (Stanback)	Science and Policy Fellow
Juris Doctorate (JD)	NRDC	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Clean Air Legal Fellow
	Three Rivers Land Trust	NGO (Stanback)	Habitat Management Intern
	RMI	NGO (Stanback)	India Program Intern

MCRP	Southern Environmental Law Center	NGO (Stanback)	Southeast Regional Environmental Justice, Statutory Policy, and Regulatory Research Fellowship
	League of Conservation Voters	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Government Affairs Fellow
	Apex Clean Energy	Private	Government Affairs Summer Associate
MBA	Intl. Farming	Private	Summer Investment Associate
	Propeller Ventures	Private	Summer Associate
	CICC	Private	ESG Investing Analyst
	World Bank Group	Quasi Government Org - International	Changing wealth of Nations

### Ecosystem Science and Conservation (ESC)

MBA	NASA	Federal Government (US)	DEVELOP Internship Program
	US Department of Transportation	Federal Government (US)	Environmental Protection Specialist
	Gabon Parks Network	Higher Education (Duke)	Pathogens to Pachyderms
	Nicholas Institute	Higher Education (Duke)	Research Intern
	Duke University/ANPN/IRET	Higher Education (Duke)	Bass Connections - Forest Innovations in Wildlife Technology
	Pennsylvania State University Arboretum	Higher Education (non-Duke)	Plant Records Intern
	City of Dallas	Local Government (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
	Tar River Land Conservancy	NGO (non-Stanback)	Land Stewardship Intern
	The Hive Fund for Climate & Gender Justice	NGO (non-Stanback)	Communications Consultant
	Conservation Trust for North Carolina	NGO (Stanback)	Conservation and Community Resilience GIS Stanback Fellow
MCRP	The Nature Conservancy	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Coastal Fellow
	Apex Clean Energy	Private	Technology GIS Summer Associate
MBA	Grove Climate Group	Private	Summer Associate

### Water Resources Management (WRM)

#### Master of Engineering Management

(MEgM)	Civil Consultants	Consulting	Engineering Technician Intern
	City of Raleigh Stormwater	Local Government	Water Quality Intern
	NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection	Local Government	Environmental Education Intern
	Maryland-National Capitol Parks & Planning Commission	NGO (non-Stanback)	Natural Resources Intern II
	NRDC	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Clean Water Policy Fellow
	Environmental Working Group	NGO (Stanback)	Investigations team intern

\*dual degree or secondary concentration noted if applicable