

2024 Professional Master's Degree Summer Experience Report

Executive Summary

Professional master's students seeking summer experiences in the summer of 2024 have ventured out into a wider range of opportunities. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Nicholas School of the Environment (NSOE) 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 2024, students reported 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 170 rising second- or third- year Master of Environmental Management (MEM), Master of Environmental Management/Master of Business Administration (MEM/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.

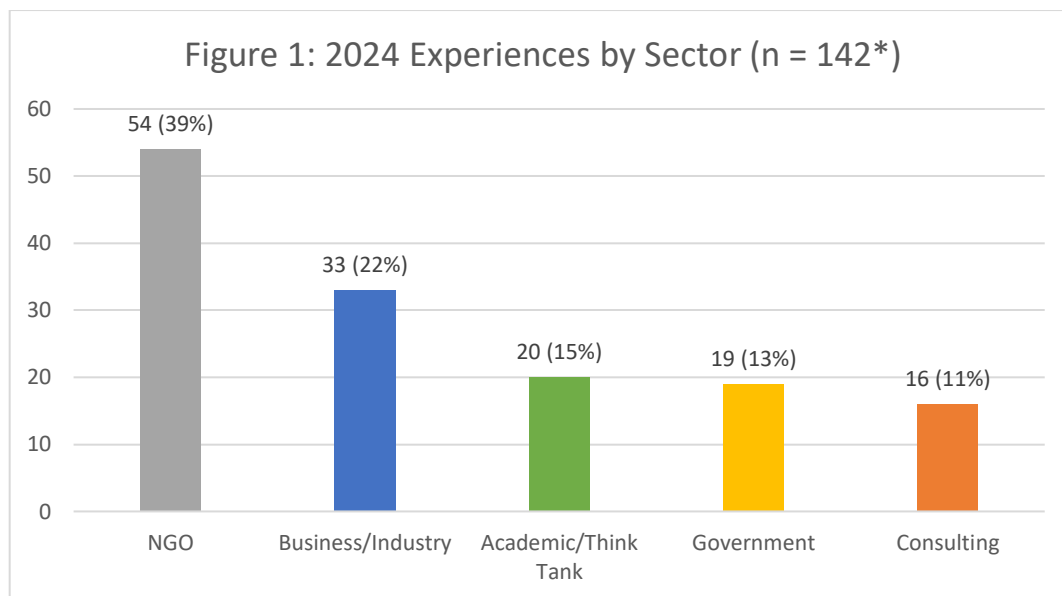
Methods: CPDC created and distributed a survey that was sent to the identified audience of 170 students in June 2024 and received 142 survey responses (84% completion rate). Requests for survey completion were followed by online research and email contacts requesting confirmation of summer experience information. Augmented by this knowledge, CPDC obtained information or responses from 149 (88%) of the identified audience. *Results Section 1* depicts an overview of all Nicholas School master's students, and *Results Section 2* provides information by sector, concentration(s), and degree(s).

Results Section 1: General Trends

This section of the report analyzes 149 out of 170 (88%) experiences that students reported or were known to have during Summer 2024. Ten (10) of these 149 students (6%) are not included in the following 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. In some of the following graphs and narratives, data were incomplete, respondents shared more than one experience, or respondents requested that we not share their experiences. In 2024, 57% of respondents reported a remote or hybrid experience, an increase from 44% in Summer 2023.

Figure 1: Distribution by Sector

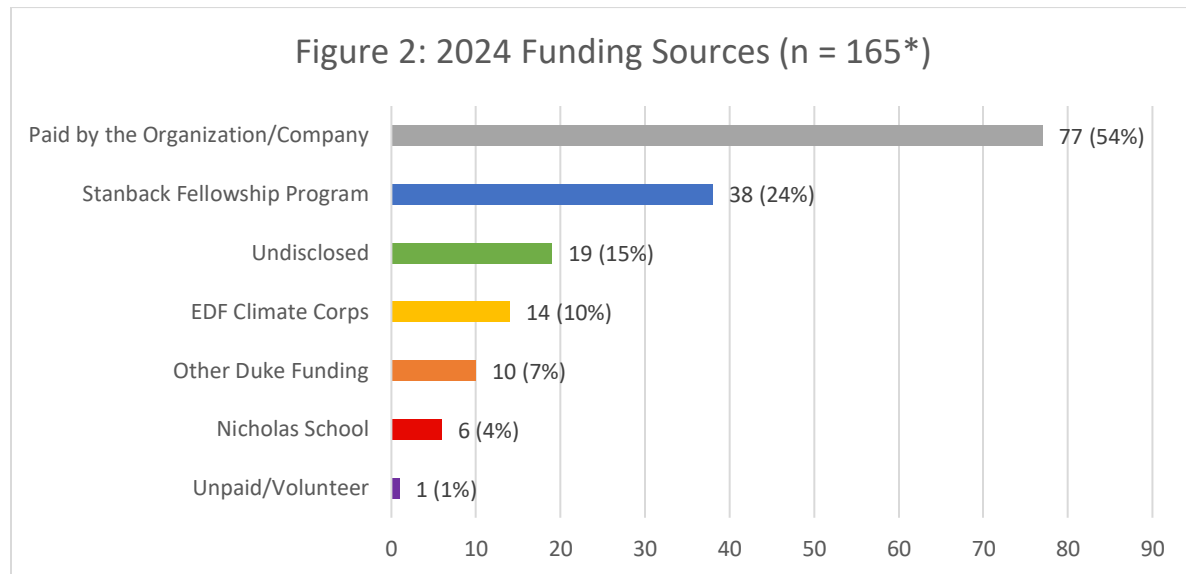
Private sector hosts (Business/Industry = 22% and Consulting = 11%) and NGOs (39%) accounted for 72% of 2024 summer experience hosts. Consulting experiences remained consistent with the percentages reported for the last two years. The Stanback Fellowship Program (SFP) accounted for 69% of the NGO summer experiences.



**some students reported multiple experiences*

Figure 2. Funding Sources

Duke University provided partial or full funding for at least 38% of summer experiences. For the fourth straight year, the percentage of known funding from companies or programs was higher than that provided by Duke-related funds. Nevertheless, the value of Duke-provided support remains high.



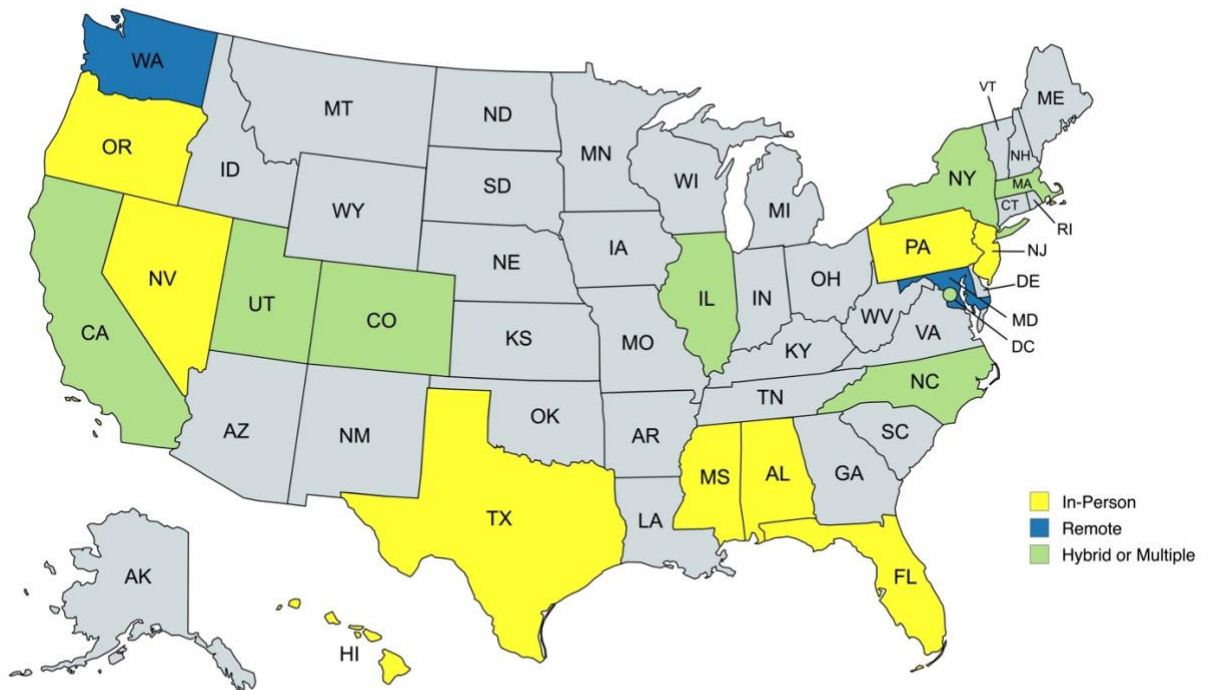
*some students reported multiple funding sources

In its 28th year, the [Stanback Fellowship Program](#) (SFP) provided partial funding for Duke students matched with select non-profit hosts for approximately 11 weeks. The Stanback Fellowship Program consistently accounts for 25-30% of summer experiences.

Additional support was made possible by awards from the NSOE Career Pathways Fund, the David R. Brower Fund, the Whitney E. Chamberlain Fund, and the Kuzmier-Lee-Nikitine (KLN) Fund.

Figures 3 and 4. Physical Locations

Experiences ranged from policy or data analysis to business sustainability to field-based work in various locations and with employers across the globe. United States locations included Alabama, California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Washington. The work style color scheme in Figure 3 indicates whether the student was in a state conducting in-person work (yellow), remote work (blue), or a hybrid work arrangement (green).



Created with mapchart.net

Figure 3: Locations in the United States, 2024

Figure 4 illustrates the six students known to have in-person international experiences (red). These include China (1), Peru (2), Mexico (3), and Zambia (1) and were all conducted in-person.

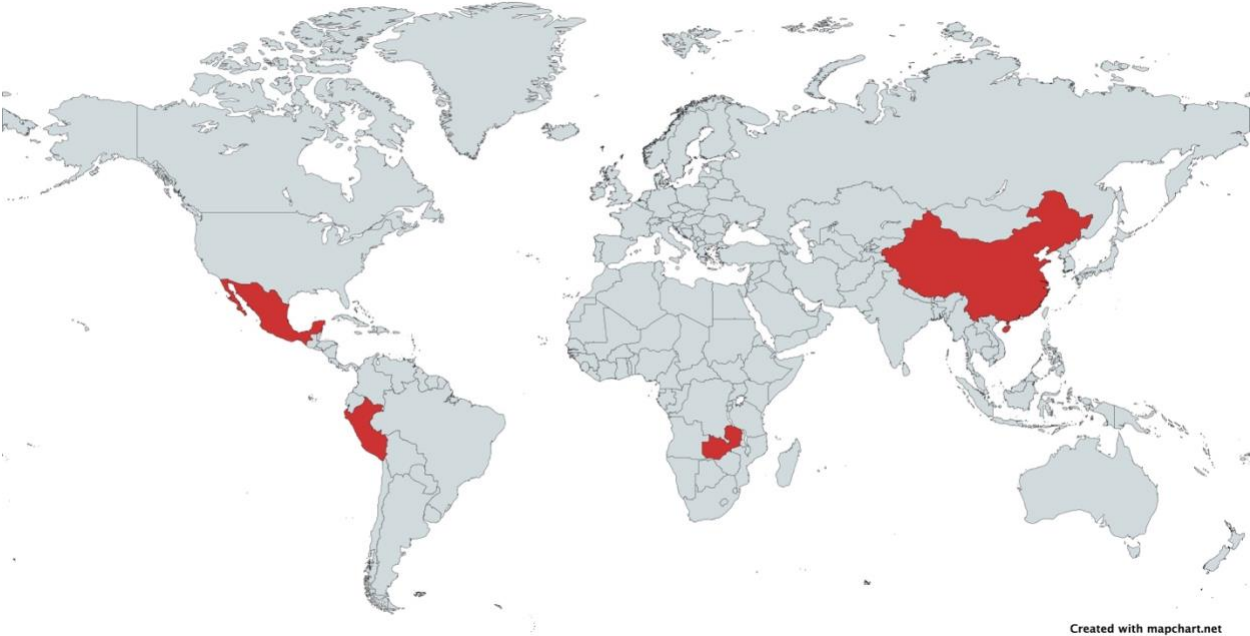


Figure 4: International locations, 2024

2024 SUMMER EXPERIENCE REPORT - PLACEMENTS BY CONCENTRATION

Primary Concentration*	Secondary Concentration	Additional Dual Degree	Host	Sector	Title
Business and Environment (BE)					
	EE		3R Sustainability	Consulting	ESG Intern
	EE		Alt Surya	Consulting	Research Analyst
		MBA	Boston Consulting Group	Consulting	Summer Consultant
		MBA	Boston Consulting Group	Consulting	Summer Consultant
		MBA	Bridgestone Americas	Private	Energy and Environmental Analyst
	EE	MBA	City of Durham, NC	Local Government	Graduate Student Intern - Landfill Solar
	EE		Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability	Higher Education (Duke)	Research Assistant
	TFE	MBA	MGM Resorts International	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow - Supply Chain Water Stewardship Project
	EE		Mozilla	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
		MCRP	Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Community Engagement Strategy Development Fellow
	EE	MBA	Signet Jewelers	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Environmental Sustainability Fellow
	EE		Halff Associates, Inc.	Consulting	Environmental Intern
	EE		ICF	Consulting	Commercial Energy Intern
		MBA	IMA Financial Group	Private	Sustainability Intern
		MBA	L'Oreal	Private	Sustainability Fellow
	EE		NC League of Conservation Voters	NGO (Stanback)	Energy Transmission Fellow
	EE		NC Sierra Club	NGO (Stanback)	Environmental Conservation and Policy Fellow
	EE		RMI	NGO (Stanback)	Intern - Climate Intelligence: Carbon Markets
	EE		Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	NGO (Stanback)	Roan Highlands Visitor Use Planning Project
		MBA	Southern California Edison	Private	Power Procurement Intern
	EE		Sustainability Roundtable, Inc	Consulting	Decarbonization Intern
		MBA	Tyton Partners	Consulting	Summer Principal
Coastal and Marine Systems (CaMS)					
	CEEJ		Resilient Urban Latin America - International Research Experience for Students	Higher Education (non-Duke)	Summer Researcher
	CEEJ		Duke Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Marine Spatial Planning Intern
	EAM		Duke Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Marine Spatial Planning Intern
	EAM		Duke Marine Robotics & Remote Sensing Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Summer Researcher
	EAM		Duke Marine Robotics & Remote Sensing Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Mallows Bay National Marine Sanctuary Monitoring Project
	EAM		Duke Marine Robotics & Remote Sensing Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Risk and Resilience of Pivers Island
	EAM		Nicholas School of the Environment	Higher Education (Duke)	Summer Researcher
	EAM		Duke University Marine Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Summer Researcher
	EAM	MBA	KKR	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow - Biodiversity Intern
	BE		Environmental Financial Consulting Group	Consulting	Summer Consultant
	CEEJ		Interstate Commission for the Potomac River Basin	Federal Government (US)	Summer Intern
	EAM		National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Federal Government (US)	Summer Researcher
	EEP		NC Sea Grant	State Government	Mariculture Tourism & Outreach Intern for NC Oyster Trail
	EAM		NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office	Federal Government (US)	Dolphin Research Intern
	EAM		North Carolina Coastal Land Trust	NGO (Stanback)	Climate Resiliency Stanback Fellow

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	EEP		Park Institute of America / National Parks Conservation Association	NGO (non-Stanback)	Conservation Data and Communications Fellow
	CEEJ		Responsible Offshore Science Alliance	NGO (non-Stanback)	Summer Intern
	EEP		Sarasota County	Local Government	Natural Resource Management and Community Outreach Intern
	EEP		Southern Environmental Law Center	NGO (Stanback)	Ecosystem Resilience Fellow
	EEP	JD	The Rachel Carson Council	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Presidential Fellow
	EAM		Wildlife and Offshore Wind Project	Higher Education (Duke)	Summer Intern
Community Engagement and Environmental Justice (CEEJ)					
	TFE		Lane County Public Health	Local Government (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
	TFE		Environmental Defense Fund	NGO (Stanback)	Cuba Coastal Resiliency Fellow
	TFE	MF	ICICO	NGO (non-Stanback)	
	EE		NC League of Conservation Voters	NGO (Stanback)	Communications and Community Engagement Fellow
	CaMS		RMI	NGO (Stanback)	Climate Finance Access Network Intern
	EEH		The Rachel Carson Council	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Presidential Fellow
	EEH		The Rachel Carson Council	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow
	TFE		Yale University	Higher Education (non-Duke)	Yale Environmental Fellow
Ecosystem Science and Conservation (ESC)					
		MF	Colorado Springs Utilities	Private	Watershed Planning Intern
		MF	Conservation Trust for NC	NGO (Stanback)	Land Protection Assistantship
		MBA	Bank of America	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
		MBA	Under Armour	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
		MBA	Park Institute of America	NGO (Stanback)	Conservation Research Fellow
		MCRP	Resource Management Service	Private	Biodiversity Intern
		MF	Roanoke Cooperative - Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project	NGO (non-Stanback)	SFLRP Technical Assistance Intern
		MF	The Nature Conservancy	NGO (Stanback)	Land Use Classification Stanback Fellow
Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health (EEH)					
	BE		Earthjustice	NGO (Stanback)	Summer Fellow
	EEP		Environmental Working Group	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow
Energy and Environment (EE)					
		MBA	AES	Private	Market Development Intern
	BE		AES	Private	Graduate Student Summer Associate
		MBA	AES	Private	Summer Associate, Asset Management
	BE	MBA	Arcadis	Consulting	Mobility Team Technical Intern
		MBA	Bain & Company	Consulting	Summer Associate
		MBA	Boston Consulting Group	Consulting	Summer Consultant
	EEP		CleanAIRE NC	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Environmental Policy Associate
	EAM		Cypress Creek Renewables	Private	Solar Energy Storage Intern
		MBA	Duke Energy	Private	MBA Intern Renewables Development
	EEP		City of Durham	Local Government (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
	BE		Consolidated Edison Company of New York	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow - Clean Energy Specialist
	BE		EDF Climate Corps - Equity LifeStyle Properties	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow
	BE		Jetblue	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Sustainability Consultant
	BE	MBA	Ulta Beauty	Private (EDF Climate Corps)	EDF Climate Corps Fellow

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		MPP	Electric Power Research Institute	NGO (non-Stanback)	Graduate Student Employee
	BE	MBA	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Federal Government (US)	Student Intern
	EAM		Fluence	Private	Commercial Associate
	BE		Greif Industrial Packaging	Private	Global Supply Chain Sustainability Intern
	BE		ICF	Consulting	Summer Intern - Commercial Energy
	BE		ICF	Consulting	Summer Intern
		MBA	Lincoln International	Private	Summer Associate
	EEP		Mars, Inc.	Private	Corporate Climate and Sustainability intern
	EAM	MBA	NextEra Energy	Private	MBA Intern - Renewable Development Business Operations
		MBA	North Carolina Clean Energy Fund	NGO (non-Stanback)	Strategic Finance Summer Intern
	BE		Pattern Energy	Private	Regulatory Intern
	BE		RMI	NGO (non-Stanback)	Climate Intelligence Intern
	EAM		RMI	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow - Third Derivative Investment Initiative
		MEgM	S&P Global	Private	Summer Research Analyst
	EAM		Smart Electric Power Alliance	NGO (non-Stanback)	EDICT Resilience Intern
	BE	MBA	Solar Landscape	Private	MBA Intern
	MPP		Trinity Industries, Inc.	Private	ESG Summer Intern
	EEP	MBA	US Department of Energy	Federal Government (US)	Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations Portfolio Risk Intern

Environmental Analytics and Modeling (EAM)

	EEH		Duke Environmental Law & Policy Clinic	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Science and Policy Fellow
	CaMS		Duke Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Marine Spatial Planning Intern
	TFE		NOAA Office of Water Prediction	Federal Government (US)	Lapenta Intern on Flood Inundation Mapping Project
	EE		North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Energy Data Fellow
	EE		The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey	Quasi Government Org - Domestic	Sustainability Intern
	TFE	MF	US House of Representatives	Federal Government (US)	Energy and Environment Fellow

Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP)

	CaMS		Duke Environmental Law & Policy Clinic	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Science and Policy Intern
	EE		Duke University - Marine Geospatial Ecology Lab	Higher Education (Duke)	Marine Spatial Planning Intern
	TFE	MCRP	Nicholas Institute	Higher Education (Duke)	Research Assistant
		MBA	Office of Sustainable Duke	Higher Education (Duke)	Duke Sustainability Fellow
	CaMS		National Parks Conservation Association	NGO (Stanback)	Northeast Region Stanback Fellow
	EEH		New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets	State Government	Student Assistant for the Public Information Office
	CaMS		Nicholas Institute - Climate+/Data+	Higher Education (Duke)	Summer Intern
	CaMS		North Carolina Coastal Federation	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Coastal Restoration and Outreach Fellow
	EE		North Carolina Conservation Network	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow - Forever Chemicals Campaign
	EE		North Carolina League of Conservation Voters	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Legislative and Political Fellow
		JD	Paul Hastings, LLP	Private	Summer Associate
	EE		Southern Environmental Law Center	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow - Southeast Clean Energy Policy
		MCRP	The Nature Conservancy, Peru	NGO (non-Stanback)	Fresh Water Team Assistant
	CaMS		World Bank	Quasi Government Org - International	Global Program on Sustainability Intern

Terrestrial and Freshwater Environments (TFE)

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	EAM		Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research	NGO (non-Stanback)	Majuna Lands Expedition Team Coordinator
	CEEJ		Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy	NGO (non-Stanback)	Intern
	EEP		Conservation Finance Alliance	NGO (non-Stanback)	Summer Intern
	EAM	MCRP	Conservation Trust for NC	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback GIS Conservation Fellow
	EAM	MF	Duke Wetlands Center	Higher Education (Duke)	Lab Assistant
	EEP		Earthjustice	NGO (Stanback)	Sustainable Food and Farming Fellow
	EAM		Environmental Defense Fund	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow - Wetland Restoration
	EEP		Environmental Defense Fund	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow - Natural Infrastructure
	EEP		Game Rangers International	NGO (non-Stanback)	Research Assistant
	EAM		NASA	Federal Government (US)	DEVELOP Participant
	EAM		Pennsylvania State University	Higher Education (non-Duke)	Research assistant
	BE	MF	Population Connection	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Fellow - Member Relationship & Development Intern
	EAM		Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Spruce-Fir Restoration Fellow
	EAM		Stantec	Consulting	Summer Associate
	EEP		The Rachel Carson Council	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback Presidential Fellow
	EEP		Three Rivers Land Trust	NGO (Stanback)	Habitat Enhancement Fellow
	EEP		EPA	Federal Government (US)	Pathways Intern
	CEEJ	MF	US Geological Survey	Federal Government (US)	Biological Science Technician
Master of Forestry (MF)					
			Duke Forest	Higher Education (Duke)	Summer Intern
			ICICO	NGO (non-Stanback)	Summer Researcher
			The American Chestnut Foundation	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback - Science Regional Fellow
			The Nature Conservancy	NGO (Stanback)	Stanback - Conservation Forestry Fellow
Duke Environmental Leadership Master of Environmental Management (DEL-MEM)					
			Park Institute of America / National Parks Conservation Association	NGO (non-Stanback)	Data Science and Communications Fellow

*secondary concentration or dual degree noted if applicable

Concentrations

BE = Business and Environment

CaMS = Coastal and Marine Systems

CEEJ = Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

EAM = Environmental Analytics and Modeling

EE = Energy and Environment

EEH = Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health

EEP = Environmental Economics and Policy

ESC = Ecosystem Science and Conservation

TFE = Terrestrial and Freshwater Environments

Concurrent Degree Programs

JD = Juris Doctorate

MBA = Master of Business Administration

MCRP = Master of City and Regional Planning

MEgM = Master of Engineering Management

MF = Master of Forestry