



# SUMMER WATER INTERNSHIP

MAY - AUGUST 2022

Work with community organizations to address Pittsburgh's water challenges through collaborative research

\$5,000 stipend

Opportunity to develop independent research

Open to all Pitt Undergraduates  
Applications due 7 March 2022

Application details here:  
[www.water.pitt.edu/opportunities](http://www.water.pitt.edu/opportunities)

Questions? Contact [pittwater@pitt.edu](mailto:pittwater@pitt.edu)

# Water Research Internship Summer 2022



**Now seeking interns, research advisors, and community partners!!**

## **Internship Overview**

The Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water Research, Education, and Outreach at the University of Pittsburgh is seeking undergraduates for paid summer research internships with a \$5,000 stipend (May-August 2022). Interns will work with a partner organization (e.g., NGO, government agency, community group, or other water practitioners) and an academic advisor to conduct independent research related to water. A list of potential partner organizations and potential academic advisors can be found on our website, but partner organizations may include any local/regional organization that works with some aspect of water. The academic advisor can be any faculty member, postdoctoral researcher, or visiting scholar at the University of Pittsburgh. Advisors who are senior Ph.D. candidates will be considered. Applicants and their academic advisors may come from any major, department, or school at Pitt. You can find out more about past water research intern projects on our website. Interns will join the Honors College Community Research Fellowship Seminar (1 hour per week). In this course, students will discuss, reflect, and learn about community-based research methods and best practices. Final deliverables for the internship and Honors College Seminar are the same and include:

- An ~1 page “Water Briefing” or executive summary for the Water Collaboratory website
- A product agreed upon by academic advisor and community partner (typically a more detailed written report, but may take other formats)
- A final presentation (~5-10 minutes)
- A blog entry (for the Pitt Honors College Seminar)

## **Applicants should submit:**

- (a) A short research proposal (described below)
- (b) A resume that includes the names and contact information for three reference
- (c) A letter of commitment from the partner organization
- (d) A letter of commitment from an academic advisor

## **Due Date:**

Applications should be emailed as a single pdf to Megan Guy ([megan.guy@pitt.edu](mailto:megan.guy@pitt.edu)) by 03/07/22

### **How to develop a proposal idea**

Applicants should contact potential academic advisors and potential community organizations as early as possible to identify advisors/organizations willing to collaborate and develop a proposal idea. Some academic advisors and/or partner organizations may already have developed project ideas, however in many cases applicants will come up with an idea that an advisor and/or community partner will help develop. Applicants can also meet with a member of the Collaboratory leadership team to discuss proposal ideas and identify potential partner organizations and advisors.

### **Proposal Guidelines**

Research proposals should address local and/or regional water issues including, but not limited to, water quality, water quantity, water infrastructure, environmental health, environmental justice and equity, water policy and management, and/or environmental education. The proposal should be 2 pages or less and include the following:

- 1) Introduction including the importance of the research question/topic
- 2) The proposed methods
- 3) A timeline outlining project milestones
- 4) Anticipated outcomes

### **Selection Criteria**

Applicants will be selected based on the quality and feasibility of their proposal as well as application materials. Applicants will be informed by 03/28/22 regarding acceptance of their application. The selected applicant, academic advisor, and partner organization will coordinate a meeting with representatives of the Water Collaboratory during April 2022 to discuss the internship scope, goals, schedule, and deliverables. The expected deliverables, including the water briefing, report, and presentation, should be completed by the end of August 2022. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Guy ([megan.guy@pitt.edu](mailto:megan.guy@pitt.edu))

## **Information for Partner Organizations**

### **Seeking potential partner organizations:**

If you have a project idea, data hanging around, or analyses that you think would make a good project, please consider partnering with the Pitt Water Collaboratory Internship program. Summer water interns are highly motivated undergraduates who are selected through a competitive application process to conduct research benefiting a community partner. Community partners help build relationships between Pitt and the community, identify research needs, assist with mentoring interns, and help make sure that products and deliverables are as useful as possible. Potential partner organizations are encouraged to contact a member of the Collaboratory leadership team.

**Role of partner organizations:** A member(s) of an organization outside of the University of Pittsburgh serves as a community partner. The community partner provides the intern with periodic feedback and information to ensure project success and usability. In some cases, the community partner organization may have a significant advising role as well depending on the project and academic advisor.

*Proposal preparation:* As intern applicants develop the proposal, partner organizations should make sure the proposal idea and goals align with their own and offer feedback if possible.

*Project execution:* The partner organization is expected to meet with the intern periodically, or as frequently as needed, to provide input on research activities.

*Final report and executive summary:* The partner organization is expected to guide interns in the production of a report or deliverable of interest to the partner organization. The partner may review and provide input on the product before it is submitted to the Collaboratory. The partner is not expected to review the executive summary unless it makes sense to do so.

*Final presentation:* The partner organization is expected to attend the final presentation.

*Final feedback:* The mentor is expected to provide the intern with feedback about their work at the end of the project by answering a short online survey. This should include feedback on different aspects of their project (proposal, execution, report, presentation) and overall provide the interns with constructive input that will help them improve their professional skills.

## **Information for Academic Advisors**

### **Seeking potential academic advisors:**

If you have a project idea, data hanging around, or analyses that you think would make a good summer research project, please consider partnering with the Pitt Water Collaboratory Internship program. Summer water interns are highly motivated undergraduates who are selected through a competitive application process to conduct research benefiting a community partner. Academic advisors work with research interns to develop and carry out their research project. If interested in getting involved, please contact the Collaboratory Leadership Team.

**Role of Academic Advisors:** Provide the intern with ongoing guidance and feedback on their project. In some cases, the community partner may have a significant advising role as well.

*Proposal preparation:* In most cases, the advisor should provide feedback on the proposal making sure that the proposed timeline, methods, and goals are realistic given the internship duration and the intern's skills.

*Project execution:* The advisor is expected to meet with the intern at a sufficient frequency to ensure that the intern uses the proper methods to obtain their goal, understands the details of their work as well as potential caveats, and that their progress will enable them to obtain the project goals within the internship timeframe.

*Final report and executive summary:* The advisor is expected to guide the student regarding the basic principles of writing a scientific report and executive summary (or water briefing) and to review and edit their product before it is submitted to review by the Collaboratory.

*Final presentation:* The mentor is expected to guide the student regarding how to present their project to a diverse audience and to review their presentation and provide feedback before it is presented to a broader audience.

*Final feedback:* The mentor is expected to provide the intern with feedback about their work at the end of the project. This should include feedback on different aspects of their project (proposal, execution, report, presentation) and overall provide the interns with constructive input that will help them improve their professional skills.