About the EPA Intern Program

The EPA Intern Program (EIP) at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a comprehensive, entry-level, professional, full-time employment and career development program. As a program participant, you will join an intensive two-year program to help you “jump-start” your career and develop your potential for future advancement within the Agency.

Attracting and retaining top-notch employees is crucial to the success of EPA. To foster both their personal and professional growth, EIPers participate in a two-year EPA familiarization and career development program. Key components of the program are:

- An Orientation Conference held in Washington, DC, to familiarize new EIPers with the Agency;
- Multiple rotational assignments, including an opportunity for a two-month rotation to a different geographic location;
- Individual Development Plans to serve as road maps for professional and personal development during the program and beyond;
- Site visits and group project to introduce the “hands-on” work of the Agency, such as research, monitoring, environmental clean-up, community involvement, compliance, and prevention;
- A Graduation Conference, featuring team training and environmental studies;
- On-going networking activities.

Applicant Characteristics

The EIP seeks graduates from bachelors degree programs in a variety of academic majors, including, but not limited to:

- Biological Sciences and Ecology
- Chemistry and Physical Sciences
- Environmental Engineering
- Financial Management
- Public and Environmental Policy
- Business
- Computer Science
- Environmental Studies
- International Studies
- Public Administration

In addition, applicants should be able to demonstrate the following:

- Academic achievement
- Leadership potential and teamwork skills
- Good citizenship and commitment to a career in public service
- Interest in environmental issues
- Solid written and verbal communication skills
- U.S. citizenship (required)
Candidates selected to complete the EIP will be offered professional EPA Intern Program *Environmental Protection Specialist* positions at the GS-7 or *Environmental Scientist/Biologist* positions at the GS-7 or 9, at either EPA Headquarters or Regional Office locations. Starting salaries are **approximately $30,000 - $40,000** per year, depending on the grade and location of the position.

As *EPA employees*, EIPers enjoy a comprehensive federal compensation package that includes health and life insurance, federal retirement program, sick and annual leave, and a Thrift Savings Plan (federal 401k plan). Quality of Work Life Programs such as career and personal development, flexible work hours, alternative work schedules, and tuition assistance may also be available.

Program positions will be filled through the Federal Career Intern Program (for Environmental Protection Specialists, Biologists, and Environmental Scientists), Administrative Careers with America (ACWA) program, Selective Placement for People With Disabilities and Disabled Veterans, and special hiring authorities for returned Peace Corps and Americorps/VISTA volunteers.

The ACWA program provides for entry-level hiring in a large number of administrative occupations. Candidates are evaluated using rating schedules that typically include questions about competencies such as a candidate’s relevant training, education, experience, skills, achievements in school, employment, and other activities.

The EPA Intern Program vacancy announcements will be posted for two weeks between March 27th and April 7th 2006 on the Office of Personnel Management’s website at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) and the EPA EZhire website at [www.epa.gov/ezhire](http://www.epa.gov/ezhire) You must apply online between March 27th and April 7th.

Approximately 70 applicants may be invited to Washington, DC, for the EIP Interview Process to be held in June, with travel expenses paid by EPA. We anticipate hiring approximately 25 to 35 EIP interns for the EIP Class of 2006, who will come on board beginning in August or September of 2006.

For more information about the EIP, visit our website at:

http://www.epa.gov/careers/gradopp.html

All applicants for Federal employment receive consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, age (with authorized exceptions), sexual orientation, or any other non-meritorious factors. U.S. Citizenship is required.