



Summer Graduate Science Communication Research Internship



Deadline: April 15, 2017

The mission of Virginia Sea Grant (VASG) is to enhance the ecological, economic, and social sustainability of coastal and ocean ecosystems, and communities through university-based research, extension, education, and communication activities. VASG supplies science-based information to citizens, businesses, educators, resource managers, and policy makers across the Commonwealth of Virginia, the region, and the nation. VASG is based at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Virginia, and funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with matching support from the Commonwealth of Virginia. VASG is one of 33 Sea Grant programs nationwide.

VASG is pleased to announce a paid graduate summer research internship in the field of coastal and marine science communication. The internship will provide a graduate student with assistance, training and experience as they research a question related to the new VASG website and its audience target—technical, organizational or emotional. The research intern will be placed in a cohort consisting of a photographer/video journalist, and science writer. They will report on stories, and evaluate the reach of their assignments as a unit. The internship will offer a student opportunities to develop interviewing, analysis, and reporting skills among others, and they will benefit from mentoring.

The intern will receive a \$5,000 stipend for the 40-hour per week, 10-week summer internship located either at VASG's headquarters at Gloucester Point, or this internship may also be conducted remotely. There would also be reimbursement for assignment related travel. *There is only one position available.*

Position Description

The graduate research intern will work directly with the staff of the VASG Communication Center to evaluate questions currently needing answers for the communication of complex scientific information to non-scientists and decision-makers. We are particularly interested in someone with expertise in brand journalism, and communicating science through narratives and storytelling. With the unveiling of a new website, the 2017 Internship will focus on evaluating questions related to these. If a student has a particular interest, he/she may also propose an area of study for consideration, but preference will be given to brand journalism and transmedia narrative.

Eligibility & Application Process

Any student, regardless of citizenship, who is enrolled in a graduate program, or who has recently graduated from a graduate program in communication, journalism, science writing, basic science, environmental or science communications, or other related field at an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S., is eligible for the internship.



All qualified students are encouraged to apply; however, *qualified applicants from Virginia institutions will be given priority*. There will be no additional allowance for housing costs, so applicants should consider their ability to find housing in Southeast Virginia, and to provide their own automobile transportation to and from work.

Please create an account at <http://vaseagrant.ecsion.com> (copy and paste url into your browser), and upload the application materials listed below as a single PDF document. (Please use a 12-point font) Incomplete applications will not be considered:

1. *Letter of Interest* (2-page maximum): This letter should help us learn more about you. We will want to know (1) why you are interested in the internship; (2) your career goals and how a research internship will help you to achieve them; (3) education and experience you have had in science, environmental communications, writing, visual communications or otherwise; (4) examples of previous projects, whether personal, educational, or professional, that you've worked on and enjoyed; and (5) communication skills you have, AND the skills you would like to develop further.
2. *Resume* (2-page maximum): Include email addresses and phone numbers of two references who can attest to your research and writing ability (one reference can be the letter writer from #5 below).
3. *Short writing sample*: Provide a link to something you have researched, published or written, that is available online. You can also provide a document of something you have filed if you do not yet have a published article.
4. *All transcripts*: Unofficial transcripts may be submitted.
5. *Letter of recommendation*: One letter should be uploaded directly from a faculty member, supervisor, or advisor who can speak to your research ability and experience. You will be able to notify them directly through your <http://vaseagrant.ecsion.com> account.

Evaluation Process

VASG will assemble a team to review the applicants' achievements, and potential to perform and learn through this research internship. The criteria for the review are:

- Research experience, writing ability, which includes writing experience, and a final report sample or published findings.
- Science research experience or interest, which speaks to the appropriateness of the internship for the student's experience and career interests.
- Recommendations from your external references.
- Additional relevant experience for e.g., academic record, educational experiences, extracurricular activities, honors and awards.

Timeline for the Evaluation Process and Internship

Late April – Intern selection, phone and video/in-person interviews;

Late May/Early June to August – Internship period

More Information

Please contact Ian Vorster: igvorster@vims.edu / 804-684-7632

