

The Nature Conservancy Conservation Science Internship Program, 2008

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will be hosting science and conservation internships during the summer and fall of 2008. This is a unique opportunity to bridge the gap between what is learned in the classroom and work done in the real world of conservation to promote a sustainable planet. The Conservation Science Internship Program (CSIP), designed to help TNC draw broadly from a variety of socio-cultural experiences, to build diversity in conservation, and to increase its programs' conservation science capacity, will match qualified and enthusiastic college and university students with appropriate TNC programs and mentors throughout the world. TNC CSIP staff will ensure good matches between intern and mentor/host program such that interns receive a quality experience, a committed mentor, and relevant training. Interns begin the program with an orientation retreat (travel expenses covered) in which TNC science leaders and academic mentors gather and share professional and career experiences, as well as help formulate internship projects so that they have greatest chance to succeed. In addition to mentoring, the intern program will provide an outstanding network of conservation professionals to draw on in future years. Although our program is still relatively small in 2008, we hope to expand it over time, reaching greater numbers of diverse students around the world, and eventually contributing to the diversity, size, and effectiveness of the global conservation workforce.

Eligibility:

1. The successful Nature Conservancy Conservation Science Internship Program candidate should demonstrate at least one of the following:

- Contribution to TNC's diversity. Student has circumstances, experiences, skills or talents that would benefit others and would enhance the diversity of TNC.
- Barriers to success. Student has successfully overcome (or is successfully overcoming) barriers, disadvantages or adversity - educational, social, cultural, or economic - in a way that would enable him or her to contribute to TNC's conservation mission in a manner that also enhances its diversity.
- Commitment to diversity. Student has shown and can demonstrate a deep and active commitment to the issue of human diversity and conservation (for example, promoting access to nature and conservation for underserved groups).

2. Other Eligibility Requirements

- Student has secured the commitment of a faculty member to serve as an advisor during the internship ;
- Student has exceptional academic aptitude and record;
- Student is able to demonstrate a commitment to conservation of the natural world;
- Student must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program. Recent graduates (2006 or 2007) may also apply.

How it works:

1. Three types of Diversity Internships are available:

- **TNC US Diversity Scholarship:** a limited number (3-5) of competitive, paid internships for US citizens are being offered as a means to increase diversity in TNC's [United States programs](#).
- **TNC Global Diversity Scholarship:** a limited number (3-5) of competitive, paid internships will be available for students from outside the US to work in [TNC country programs](#).
- **University or grant-funded Internships:** Student must demonstrate on the application form that they have acquired either institutional or other grant support for their internship (*these amounts (stipend + expenses) will vary depending on the country where the internship takes place – please contact Renée Mullen (rmullen@tnc.org) directly if you have questions about this*).

2. Application Instructions: ([Download 2008 application form here](#))

- Applicants must fill out and submit the 2008 Internship application by February 15, 2008.
- Application forms (+ resume) should be submitted electronically to Renée Mullen (rmullen@tnc.org)

3. The process of choosing internship recipients will occur in two phases:

- Applications will be screened for eligibility, qualifications, and level of fit with TNC project needs by The CSIP Advisory panel - a diverse panel of conservation practitioners, TNC staff, and academic scientists. Successful applications will be referred to participating TNC programs, which will interview students (by phone) and select a student with whom to write a full project proposal.
- The student, TNC supervisor, and the student's academic internship advisor will then write a full project proposal to be reviewed by the CSIP Advisory Panel prior to the 2008 science internship kickoff retreat.

Questions about the application process may be directed to Renée Mullen (rmullen@tnc.org) or Lynne Eder (leder@tnc.org)

Example of Proposed Internship Program Schedule, 2008 (example is for semester-schedule students: summer internship)

Student applications due	Feb 15
TNC staff interview and select interns	Feb 15 –Mar 15
TNC staff, intern, and academic advisor write full internship proposals	Mar 15- Apr 15
Final Internship Proposals due	Apr 15
Internship retreat (<i>tentative date</i>)	Apr 26- 28
Internships begin	Wk of May 19
Mid summer check-in and course corrections as needed	Wk of June 30
Internship project presentation to host program	Wk of Aug 11
Intern final project report due to host program	Wk of Aug 11
Final 2008 Science Internship retreat	Late 2008, early 2009
