



Laboratory Services Division
Environmental Laboratory Internship
Equal Opportunity Employer

The purpose of the LDEQ Environmental Laboratory Internship (LDEQ-ELI) program is to:

- Provide full-time graduate students with practical experience and actual environmental testing opportunities in the LDEQ Environmental Laboratory
- Provide a state-of-the-art laboratory setting for student hands-on instructional and educational training
- Increase public awareness of and involvement in environmental issues
- Encourage qualified individuals to pursue environmental careers

The learning objectives are as follows:

- Analysis of pollutants in the environment
- Development of analytical techniques
- Training in analytical data, statistical analyses and reporting
- Introduction to regulatory standards

Program Overview

The LDEQ-ELI program will offer actual analytical testing opportunities, in accordance with current EPA methods. Technology utilized at LDEQ's laboratory includes gas chromatography (GC), gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS), gamma-ray spectroscopy, inductively coupled plasma (ICP) and inductively coupled plasma/mass spectrometry (ICP/MS). Some of the current equipment includes titrators, analytical balances, spectrophotometers, colorimeters, GC, GC/MS, ICP, and ICP/MS.

Interns will review the major sources of environmental pollution, the distribution of pollutants from these sources, and analytical instruments used for characterizing environmental pollutants in a variety of environmental media. Graduate students will be introduced to state-of-the-art analytical instruments and methods and will learn to analyze samples, verify results, and report the data collected.

This program has been developed and sponsored by LDEQ's Office of Environmental Assessment, Laboratory Services Division to allow graduate students the opportunity to complete the research/work assignments during a single school year.

Full-time graduate students must apply for a minimum of two consecutive semesters. A minimum of 20 work hours per week will be required. The deadline for submitting applications for LDEQ-ELI is one week

before the beginning of each semester or quarter.

Eligibility Requirements

A LDEQ-ELI is available to any full-time graduate student who is:

- Enrolled for academic credit at an accredited educational institution. Any college hours or degree must be from a school accredited by one of the following regional accrediting bodies: the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Incorporated; the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools; the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; or the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.
- Pursuing an educational program directly related to pollution control or environmental protection for the duration of the Internship (qualifying degree curriculums listed below)
- Recommended by a Department Chairman, Institutional Chairman, Dean or Advanced Placement Advisor

Applicants must meet each of the requirements listed above, as well as the appropriate requirements for graduate and advanced students listed below.

- College degree in one of the following fields: agronomy, animal science, biological sciences, chemistry, geosciences,

atmospheric sciences, soil sciences, physical geography, physics, health sciences, toxicology, environmental sciences, wildlife and fisheries sciences, engineering, health physics, medical physics, nuclear science, or statistics and quantitative methods. Some specific scientific fields that are not qualifying are agriculture, architecture, computer science, food science, forestry, horticulture, mathematics, and science education.

- 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on a scale of 4.0 at the time the application is due. Specifically, if you are a new graduate your undergraduate GPA must be 3.0 or higher. If you are a current graduate student, your GPA must be 3.0 or higher.
- Currently enrolled in a full-time graduate or Ph.D. program or can provide proof of acceptance and enrollment to a graduate or Ph.D. program at the time the Internship is awarded

Please note: The following types of students are not eligible for a LDEQ-ELI:

- Federal employees, including those who are on “leave without pay” status
- Graduate students who will graduate before the LDEQ-ELI is completed (Students who complete their undergraduate studies before the end of an Internship may apply if they are admitted and enrolled in a graduate program.)

- Students enrolled in certificate programs
- High school students
- Undergraduate students
- Students for associate degrees
- Applicable state employee candidate relationships apply. For example, sons and daughters of LDEQ lab employees are not eligible.

Application Process

Application material and information are available by contacting LDEQ. Graduate students, who are interested in applying for a LDEQ-ELI, must submit three complete application packages (one original and two copies) that include:

- A completed LDEQ-ELI Application
- A résumé
- An official college transcript for each school attended
- A completed LDEQ-ELI Disclosure and Waiver Statement
- Verification of acceptance and/or enrollment in a graduate or Ph.D. program if the applicant is a graduating senior

Final acceptance is subject to the hiring practices of LDEQ.

Evaluation and Selection of LDEQ-ELI

LDEQ Environmental Laboratory Internships are awarded annually on the basis of LDEQ’s request for applications. Every application submitted for a specific period will be reviewed and evaluated by LDEQ based on specific laboratory testing criteria. Such evaluation criteria may include, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the following factors:

- Relevancy of the student’s academic studies to the LDEQ laboratory
- Student’s understanding of the proposed LDEQ missions, goals, and lab analytical requirements
- Relevancy of the student’s classroom and or work experience as it relates to the LDEQ
- Leadership skills, written communication skills, and demonstrated success at working well in an office, laboratory, or field environment, as appropriate to the project
- Potential for success, as reflected by academic records, letters of reference, and other relevant Information

Compensation

Selected ELI interns will receive a salary of a minimum of \$12.65/hour, based on the student’s level of education, experience and the employment history. Work activities may allow compensation for up to 35 hours per week. Pay increases will be based on LDEQ experience, education and job performance.

For additional information please contact:

Melvin “Mitch” Mitchell, Administrator

Mailing Address:

LDEQ Laboratory Services Division
P. O. Box 4314
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314

Physical Address:

1209 Leesville Avenue
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Telephone: (225) 219-9800

Or visit LDEQ’s web site at:

www.deq.louisiana.gov