

Announcement

Summer Internship Opportunity in Biology: **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Internship Program**

On-campus **applications are now being accepted** for an Internship at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC), located in Edgewater, Maryland along the Chesapeake Bay. Part of a recent partnership between the SERC and the Wabash College Biology Department, this opportunity will allow up to two students, each summer, the opportunity to work under the direction of SERC's professional staff in an internship that combines academically focused projects with hands-on experiential learning. This internship, managed by both the Wabash College Biology Department and the Schroeder Center for Career Development, will enable current students to gain practical research experience at one of the most noted institutions in the country.

Research projects run for 12-14 weeks from May–August (depending on the project) and include terrestrial, atmospheric, and estuarine environmental research within the disciplines of ecology, biology, chemistry, microbiology, botany, zoology, mathematics, and physics. SERC interns will receive a stipend of \$475 per week; housing costs are included. This internship is funded through the Wabash College Dept. of Biology.

How to Apply

This internship opportunity will be competitive. Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the SERC Internship website (http://www.serc.si.edu/pro_training/internships/internships.aspx) for additional information about the overall program.

Stage 1 - To be considered for the Wabash-SERC Internship program, students will first submit an application by **January 20, 2012** to a Faculty Internship Committee comprised of Wabash Biology Department faculty and a representative of the Schroeder Center for Career Development. **Submit your application to Dr. Eric Wetzel, Dept. of Biology** (wetzele@wabash.edu) **by January 20, 2012**. Your on-campus application should include (1) a cover letter, (2) a curriculum vita (resume), and (3) a short (2-3 pages) essay. Your essay should discuss any previous work / internship experiences similar to those at SERC, your academic and career plans, an explanation of why you wish to participate in this *particular* internship, and how you feel this experience will further your educational and intellectual goals. You should clearly outline the particular research project(s) (up to three) in which you are interested, and demonstrate that you have investigated the opportunity.

Stage 2 - The application(s) passing the on-campus review will then be submitted to SERC for final selection. **NOTE:** The student(s) will still need to apply to the program as per the guidelines on the SERC website. The final application to SERC must be submitted by **February 1** for consideration for summer projects. Because of the short turnaround time, and because the application to SERC requires two letters of recommendation, you should think of possible recommenders and consider approaching them ahead of time in case your application is put forth by the Biology Department.

Students completing an internship at SERC will be required to publicly present their work upon returning to campus.

This is an excellent research opportunity at one of the outstanding research labs in the country. If interested, submit an application to Dr. Eric Wetzel (Biology Dept.) by January 20, 2012. Please feel free to contact Dr. Wetzel (wetzele@wabash.edu) if you have questions.