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## **iUtah EPSCoR Undergraduate Summer Internship**

**Institution/Company:** Utah Department of Environmental Quality / Division of Water Quality

**Department:** Water Quality Management Section

**Contact person:**

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**Project Description:**

Utah Division of Water Quality (UDWQ) is seeking **two** motivated undergraduates for summer internship positions. Interns will be involved in projects that range from installation of experimental mesocosms, routine field data collection, and exposure to environmental data analysis to preparation of figures and tables for regulatory and programmatic reporting. Key projects for 2013 involve:

- (i) Developing metrics to assess the health of shallow surface-flow wetlands adjacent to Great Salt Lake (GSL);
- (ii) Data collection for statewide lake and stream assessments;
- (iii) Field sampling of surface water and wetland environments within the Willard Spur portion of GSL to support the establishment of site-specific water quality standards;
- (iv) Installation and maintenance of nutrient-amended mesocosms within Willard Spur to elucidate potential mechanisms of ecosystem degradation; and
- (v) Analysis of GSL impounded wetlands data: examining patterns of ecological response to nutrient, toxic metals, and salinity gradients.

Given the wide range of problems and potential solutions needed to protect and maintain water quality in Utah, selected interns can also expect to be exposed to a variety of scientists and engineers with broad backgrounds within UDWQ and among our agency partners.

**Required Skills & Experience:**

- Interest in water quality issues, including some coursework in one or more of the following: chemistry, biology, calculus and/or statistics, and environmental policy
- Interest and/or experience with environmental field sampling techniques and methods (aquatic or terrestrial)
- Interest and/or exposure to taxonomic identification of important aquatic / wetland organisms (e.g. plants, aquatic invertebrates, or birds, etc.)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

**Duration/Dates of Internship:** Mid-May through Mid-September, Negotiable

**Intern status:** Full time or part time, hours per week – Expected 40 hours per week