



2019 SEA LEVEL RISE DATA INTERNSHIP

The Island Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Rockland, Maine, seeks a motivated, self-starting college or masters-degree student for an unpaid summer internship designed to promote hands-on learning in a professional, collegial atmosphere. The intern will receive guidance and support from a staff advisor as well as from a team of talented professionals who are passionate about the Maine coast and island communities.

Position Summary

The goal of the Island Institute's Sea Level Rise team is that, by 2025, 120 island and coastal communities will have implemented infrastructure projects that improve resiliency to sea level rise and flooding effects. The SLR team needs to identify the current state of planning among the targeted 120 coastal communities and to identify those communities most at risk to rising seas. This will help the team prioritize outreach and support efforts as it moves toward the 2020 and 2025 Impact targets.

- *Primary Purpose of Internship:* To help the SLR team assess the current, coastwide state of SLR planning and infrastructure improvements (completed, ongoing, or planned) within the 120 communities with which we work.
- *Secondary Purpose of the Internship:* To assess specific infrastructure needs with those 120 communities, allowing us to better target our planned outreach and support.

The anticipated weekly schedule is approximately 20-30 hours per week for up to 10 weeks, and the duration of the internship is from approximately June 1 to approximately August 15, based on the student's availability. The intern will be expected to be at the Island Institute only one day a week for check-ins, debriefs, and work planning. The remainder of the time not spent traveling may be spent working remotely as long as the benchmarks set at the beginning of the internship are met.

Anticipated Learning Outcomes

- Real-world community-based research experience
- The opportunity to work under the supervision of a team that includes a trained anthropologist and climate scientist, and a trained marine scientist
- Increased understanding of how academic theory and learning can be applied to critical community and global issues
- The opportunity for access to content knowledge and field experience to become a subject matter expert on sea level rise in Maine;
- Increased understanding of the practical approaches and techniques used in the social and physical science fields.

Essential Responsibilities

- Contact communities, most likely through town offices, communicate with town managers or other appropriate individuals, and assess any planning or infrastructure-work related SLR, storm surge, coastal flooding, etc. currently occurring or actively planned for in the future;

- Identify community needs pertaining to these same topics to inform future opportunities for Institute support;
- Compile a directory, based on phone calls and site visits, of the most helpful contacts in the targeted communities to talk with about SLR;
- Document, collect, and, any compile photos of SLR effects, extreme high tides, flooding events, etc. that each town has for archiving in Axle.

Desired Qualifications

- Graduate-level studies preferred, but relevant undergraduate studies also considered;
- Academic background in a social science (anthropology, sociology, geography), communications, or journalism preferred, but not essential;
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills are essential; the ability to interact with a wide range of Maine-coast community members;
- Microsoft office suite expertise are also essential;
- Intern must own or have access to own vehicle;
- Willingness to travel along Maine coast and to and from island communities;
- Experience with photography preferred, but not required.

Direction and Support for Internship

- The SLR team will meet with the intern at the Island Institute several times during the first week to orient the student to our building, our organizational culture and to provide them with the background information on our team's work, and the material they need to become familiar with SLR science and the work being done in Maine.
- The team will provide a clear written work plan with benchmarks to the intern that will guide their work over the next 2.5 months.
- The advisors will meet with the intern one day a week (in person or remotely) during the project period to debrief the previous weeks activities and to plan the details of the next week's work.
- These meetings will provide both the advisor and intern an opportunity to provide each other constructive feedback about the internship project and process.
- Weekly phone calls will be held as well to provide a less formal check-in. This will ensure clear communication and give the intern the opportunity to request assistance or resources as needed
- At the completion of the project the intern will be asked to provide a short written self-assessment that will be used to frame a formal written assessment created by the advisor. Both the intern and the advisor will review the documents together and discuss at the conclusion of the project.

How to Apply

Please submit a cover letter, current résumé, and the names and contact information of at least two academic and/or professional references via the link below.

The internship placement will remain open until filled, but preference will be given to applications received by Friday, April 19, 2019. Please contact Nancy McLeod Carter at ncarter@islandinstitute.org or 207-594-9209 x133 if you have questions prior to submitting your online application [here](#).

For more information about the Island Institute and our work, please visit our website [here](#).