

CEI Field Experience

The internship field experience will expose students to interdisciplinary watershed community issues so that interns:

- Increase knowledge of freshwater, coastal and marine science, policy and community-led topics;
- Create long-term supportive community via facilitated student peer networking;
- Deepen identities as environmental scientists and community leaders; and
- Experience all four Sea Grant focus areas: healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries & aquaculture, resilient communities & economies; and environmental literacy and workforce development.

The experience will include a range of activities, from state environmental agency visits to hands-on community fieldwork and scientific presentations, providing a comprehensive understanding of freshwater, coastal and marine water resource management in the southeastern U.S. The field experience will take place in North Carolina, a state with a unique contribution to the [environmental justice movement](#) that spurred national resistance to fight environmental burdens. Students will travel from the Piedmont (Raleigh) to the coastal plain and barrier islands to observe a diverse ecology and learn from a spectrum of communities addressing complex water management challenges.

Logistics: NC Sea Grant will arrange air travel for students and pay all expenses for the trip with funds from the National Sea Grant Office.

Day 1: Sunday, July 21, 2024

- Travel to Raleigh
- Evening social

Day 2: Monday, July 22, 2024

- Policy panel discussion: Watershed regulations and government efforts to protect aquatic ecosystems
- N.C. Department of Environmental Quality/Coastal Area Management Act
- Visit Walnut Creek Wetland Park for conversation and service: Community-led cleanup efforts in southeast Raleigh
- Scientific presentations by NC Sea Grant funded researchers

Day 3: Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Interns travel from Piedmont to coastal North Carolina

- Iced tea at Croatan National Forest
- Dinner at Atlantic Beach

Day 4: Wednesday, July 24, 2024

- Boat tour of barrier islands, leaving from Beaufort marina
- Engage with coastal communities on the edge: Down East Carteret County
- Visit Carteret Community College + NC State University Center for Marine Sciences and Technology

Day 5: Thursday, July 25, 2024

- Travel to Raleigh
- Interns return home