HEC Internship

Each year the water resource program of the UC Davis Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering offers several graduate internships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC). HEC is located in downtown Davis, California, a short walk from the UC Davis campus. This internship is part of an arrangement between the University of California, Davis, and the Hydrologic Engineering Center and carries compensation corresponding to the qualifications of the applicant, typically an entry-level engineer in the range of $14.30 to $19.90 per hour. Each intern works between 10 and 20 hours per week during the academic year (beginning October 1), increasing to 40 hours per week during the following summer. In some cases it is possible for the student to commence an "early start" program in which employment begins sometime during the summer before matriculation. The number of hours per week during the school year is chosen by the intern in consultation with an HEC staff member. The schedule and number of hours can be adjusted periodically during the year. Schedules can be set around HEC’s office hours which are Monday through Friday, closed on weekends and all Federal Holidays. Interns must be U.S. citizens. These internships last for 12 months and may lead to other employment opportunities. There are currently 5 permanent HEC employees that started in the HEC/UCD Intern Program, and more at other Corps offices.

The HEC graduate internship provides each intern the opportunity to work on hydrologic and/or hydraulic engineering and water resource planning studies, as part of their master's degree program. The internship may also include computer program development in the areas of hydraulics, hydrology, reservoir systems analysis, or planning analysis. HEC is one of the nation's leading centers for applied hydrologic engineering research and the development of computer programs for use in water resources engineering. It also conducts state-of-the-art studies for water resource engineering problems and resource planning and management policies. An HEC internship is a promising source of support for an incoming water resource student, giving each intern an opportunity to participate in applied research on real-world water resource problems while beginning graduate coursework at UC Davis.

The 12 month duration of the internship allows a high degree of flexibility in choosing thesis or non-thesis research topics. Many interns combine their work at HEC with their masters thesis topics. Financial support during the second year is likely from a variety of other sources and students usually do not have difficulty finding support in subsequent years.

For additional information please email or call:

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