



## **THE ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS (ESYS) PROGRAM**

Local, regional, and global environmental problems require interdisciplinary solutions. A measurable part of society's inability to effectively manage complex environmental problems stems from a lack of specialists who can apply analytical tools across disciplinary boundaries. The UCSD Environmental Systems Program recognizes the growing demand for environmental specialists and is designed to prepare undergraduates to enter a broad spectrum of environmental careers and graduate programs in the natural sciences, the social sciences, public policy, law, or business.

ESYS students complete a suite of core requirements including biology, math, chemistry, physics, and economics before specializing in one of four advanced "tracks": Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution; Earth Sciences; Environmental Policy; or Environmental Chemistry.

### **THE ESYS SENIOR INTERNSHIP/PROJECT:**

The ESYS Program places a significant value on interdisciplinary problem solving and all majors are expected to complete an integrative Senior Project in their final year. The Senior Project is designed by the student to focus on an interdisciplinary environmental problem or research topic and is developed over two quarters (Fall and Winter) with a seminar during the third quarter (Spring). Appropriate topics for the Senior Project could conceivably include biodiversity conservation, coastal zone management, environmental health, climate change, environmental justice, and/or urban air quality. An important component of the Senior Project is an off-campus or laboratory internship. With prior approval, students may opt to fulfill their internship requirement in the laboratory of participating faculty. The goal of the internship is to gather original data and/or develop analyses and experience that will be reported in the deliverables for the Senior Project, which include a 25-page research paper and a poster for presentation. The research paper and presentation are typically developed during Spring quarter.

There are several administrative forms associated with the internship portion of ESYS 187A&B. These include an *Internship Learning Agreement* (between the ESYS Associate Director, the Student, the Internship Supervisor, and the Faculty Mentor), an *Internship Progress Form* (completed by the Student and the Internship Supervisor and approved by the Faculty Mentor), and a *Final Internship Evaluation Form* (completed by the Student and the Internship Supervisor and signed by the Faculty Mentor). ESYS Program Advisors will provide a schedule for the completion of these forms and

evaluations. It is the responsibility of the student to complete the necessary paperwork in a timely fashion.

### **GUIDELINES FOR INTERNSHIP SUPERVISORS**

*As this is an academic program, compliance with these guidelines is very important.*

1. Develop the **Internship Learning Agreement/Project Assignment** with the student. The project/job description must be completed before the student starts the internship.
2. Establish a clear understanding with the student of organization policies, including any guidelines on confidential information.
3. Submit a revised Internship Contract Agreement if there is a significant change in the student's project assignment during the course of the internship.
4. Meet with the student on a regular basis as needed to provide guidance and insure that progress is sufficient.
5. Evaluate the student's performance at the middle and end of the internship. The student will provide the **Internship Progress Form** and the **Final Internship Evaluation Form** at the appropriate intervals.
6. If you have any questions, please contact the ESYS Program Advisors:

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*The hiring criteria for interns must be based on eligibility and qualifications, without discrimination due to race, creed, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or sexual orientation.*