USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Organization/Agency: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
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UCSC Student Interns doing a stream bank erosion assessment with NRCS in 2008

Website: www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov

# of interns needed/Hours Needed for quarters: Options (choose one)
worked per intern: x Fall x Winter Remove your listing by ________
1/ 4-16 hrs/wk x Spring x Summer x Or keep on file for one year

Describe the internship assignment:

NRCS is a federal, non regulatory agency in the U.S. Dept of Agriculture that provides technical assistance to private landowners and other land users on natural resource management and conservation. The intern will assist NRCS conservationists and other office staff working with partnership agency (Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County) with: watershed assessments; natural resource projects; outreach programs, including workshop organization; land inventories & evaluations; conservation planning; and assisting individuals with natural resource data. The objective of most of these duties and activities will be to assist professional conservationists with the development of conservation and watershed restoration plans and projects that will lead to the protection and sustainability of our county’s natural resources. There is also a strong educational component in all projects.

Prerequisites:

✓ An interest in Natural Resource and Watershed Management conservation and environmental stewardship.
✓ Writing skills a plus.
✓ Any experience working with groups or organizing events.
✓ Research experience desirable but not required.
✓ Any field related experience gathering data or evaluating natural resource conditions.
✓ Computer skills, including knowledge and/or use of ARC-GIS, AutoCAD or other resource software program desirable but not required.
✓ Experience in survey and engineering would also be a huge plus.

Please note:

If students have at least 2 summers before graduation then they are eligible for NRCS’s new “Pathways” Program where students get paid for a summer NRCS internship (plus living allowance). NRCS has offices in practically every county in CA. Currently, NRCS doesn’t recruit at UCSC because the environmental studies curriculum for graduation does not require 12 units of soil & plant courses needed to qualify for employment with NRCS. By adding one general soil class and additional plant science units UCSC could become a regular NRCS recruitment campus.