

## **Internship Opportunity: Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG) Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher (LISMT) program Intern**

### **Description:**

Connecticut Sea Grant (CTSG) based at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point, Groton, seeks a graduate student intern to research, plan, develop, record, and edit virtual programming with educators and scientists focused on Long Island Sound (LIS) topics. Working directly with CTSG Education Coordinator Diana Payne and in collaboration with New York Sea Grant (NYSG) staff, the CTSG intern will learn about the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) from Payne and virtual recording techniques from NYSG. Specifically, the CTSG intern will seek potential speakers whose research aligns with NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas (content) and can showcase Crosscutting Concepts and/or Science and Engineering Practices <https://www.nextgenscience.org/three-dimensions>. The CTSG intern may also assist in recruiting current and/or former LIS Mentor Teachers to share their expertise in teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Given the unexpected consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual sessions have replaced in-person workshops and professional learning opportunities for educators, that the CTSG Intern will help facilitate. Since its inception in 2002, the Long Island Sound Mentor Teacher (LISMT) program in Connecticut has consistently recruited high quality, creative and respected teachers to assist their peers in incorporating LIS content into curricula within the scope of the newly adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). From 2002 through 2019, 39 LISMT and NGSS workshops in Connecticut have utilized 31 LIS mentor teachers to reach 511 formal and informal K-12 educators, and through them, a self-reported 32,317 students in 101 Connecticut cities, towns and regional school districts (60%). Of note, the LISMT program was selected as a Best Practice by the 2019 CTSG site review team.

**Location:** The internship will be conducted virtually, with the possible exception of meeting with scientists in the field or their labs. If such travel occurs, all CDC and UConn COVID precautions will be followed, including wearing a mask and social distancing.

**Deliverables:** Develop 5-10 grade-appropriate, multidisciplinary videos and webinars focused on Long Island Sound (LIS) topics and the NGSS.

**Expected Work Timeline:** 10-15 hours per week, March 15 to May 7, 2021 with potential for the internship to be extended into the summer.

**Total Stipend:** \$30 per hour for a maximum of 400 hours

### **Benefits for the successful candidate:**

1. Practical work experience to expand personal skill toolkit and portfolio.
2. Collaborative work with science and education professionals in CT and NY.
3. In-depth exposure to three-dimensional science learning and teaching (e.g., NGSS).
4. Opportunity to understand and communicate about issues facing Long Island Sound and its watershed to in-service and pre-service professional educators.

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### **Tasks:**

1. Contribute to the content development and format of the video series by exploring NGSS standards and tying them to local Long Island Sound topics.
2. Research and review existing educational and scientific resources related to identified LIS/NGSS topics.
3. Identify potential speakers, schedule and manage webinars and/or field or lab interviews in collaboration with NYSG intern.
4. Edit videos in collaboration with NYSG intern and link relevant resources to each.

### **Eligibility**

Prospective interns must:

- be a currently-enrolled graduate student at a Connecticut college or university, or a recent graduate (masters, PhD), with a concentration in science education, marine science or environmental science
- demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills
- be a self-starter able to take responsibility for completing projects with attention to detail
- must be able to work independently and as part of a team
- have access to transportation to potentially meet with researchers in the field/lab

### **Internship Application Guidelines**

- 1) Up to a 2-page statement of interest that describes how the internship relates to the applicant's career goals, how the applicant's previous experience and academic training might contribute to the success of the internship and opportunities/experiences the applicant expects to receive from this professional development opportunity.
- 2) Unofficial copies of undergraduate and graduate transcripts
- 3) Current resume (2-page max)
- 4) Letter of recommendation from graduate academic advisor or former advisor

### **How to Apply**

Prospective interns should send their application materials *by 5 PM ET on February 26, 2021* by email to [diana.payne@uconn.edu](mailto:diana.payne@uconn.edu).

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated by Connecticut Sea Grant staff with expertise in education, research and outreach, on the basis of:

1. **Statement of Interest (50%)**: Are the applicant's motivations and expectations, and anticipated contributions to the success of this project clearly outlined? Will the internship benefit the career goals of the applicant?

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2. **Qualifications of the candidate (35%):** Are the applicant's qualifications and professional experience aligned with the proposed project? Is the project likely to succeed based on the experience and skills of the applicant?
3. **Letter of recommendation from academic advisor (15%):** Does the letter attest to the applicant's interest in this internship, the ability to work independently and as part of a team, and knowledge and/or interest in science and science education?

The 3 top-ranked candidates will be invited to interview with the CTSG interview committee.

### **Selection Criteria**

The CTSG interview committee will make the final selection based on the evaluation criteria and the interviews. Preference will be given to candidates that have experience creating videos or running virtual sessions, who demonstrate good communication skills and have the ability to continue to work into the summer.

### **Inclusivity Statement**

People of color, indigenous people, representatives of the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities, underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, and/or individuals from economically or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

### **For More Information**

Diana L. Payne, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor in Residence and Education Coordinator  
Connecticut Sea Grant College Program  
University of Connecticut  
1080 Shennecossett Road  
Groton, CT 06340-6048  
E-mail: [diana.payne@uconn.edu](mailto:diana.payne@uconn.edu)