Internship Program

The Ruckelshaus Center is a joint effort of the University of Washington and Washington State University and is dedicated to assisting public, private, tribal, non-profit and other community leaders in their efforts to build consensus and collaboratively resolve conflicts around difficult public policy issues. The Ruckelshaus Center Internship Program is designed to provide meaningful hands-on experience for graduate students, recent graduates and work-study approved students interested in the field of collaborative public policy. Interns are exposed to current public policy issues in the State of WA and Pacific Northwest and gain insight into the practice of Alternative Dispute Resolution and Collaborative Governance. The Center’s Internship Program also provides opportunities to work side by side with professionals and mentors on real collaborative public policy projects and to cultivate collaborative skill sets needed to be successful in the field.

What Do Interns Do?

Internship assignments vary but all interns are assigned a Center faculty or staff mentor and provide project support, conduct research, participate in training development activities, provide support for Center events, and gain valuable office experience.

Assignments may also include:

- Working with Center faculty, staff and affiliated practitioners to conduct collaborative public policy assessments and to plan, design, and facilitate public policy meetings.
- Researching and writing project reports, some informal for internal use, and some that will go to large groups of community leaders and policy makers.
- Preparing background or briefing materials for the Center’s Advisory Board and helping to track lessons learned from Center projects.
- Supporting the Center’s Collaborative Capacity Building Program.
- Helping write grants and proposals for new projects.
- Attending and presenting at various conferences.

How to Apply?

This is a paid position. To apply or request additional information, submit the following materials to or email ruckelshauscenter@wsu.edu with the subject line “Internship Application”.

- Cover Letter that describes your interest in working for the Ruckelshaus Center, and any relevant previous experience
- Resume/CV including three professional references and their contact information
- Statement of Intent/Goals (i.e. what do you want out of this internship, and how will this experience advance your career goals?)
- Writing sample