Pima County Department of Environmental Quality  
(PDEQ) Public Outreach & Education Division

University of Arizona  
2015 Graduate Student Internships

**Introduction:**
Pima County Department of Environmental Quality’s internships provide on-the-job training for graduate students interested in the environment as it relates to community health, and communicating air and/or water quality issues with the general public.

**Organization Name**
Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ), Public Outreach & Education Division.

**Level of Expertise Needed**
Master’s program students or undergraduate students working towards graduate studies in environmental or education fields.

**Internship Project Title**
Research Environmental Outreach and Education Activities and Develop Materials and/or Programs for PDEQ Outreach Program.

**Project Description**
Interns will assist PDEQ with developing and enhancing a variety of public health outreach and education programs.

Specialized skills required:
- Experience with computer programs including internet searches and use of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Publisher and Excel.
- Ability to interact well with professionals and the public.

Potential activities interns may participate in:
- Accompany and observe staff during public outreach events including presentations or staffing booths during community events;
- Conduct research on focused existing national public health programs and activities, compare to local activities or programs, and make suggestions for implementation or improvement to current PDEQ programs;
- Develop interactive display to engage public participation and education for use during community events;
- Develop the conservation message that clean air is precious and draft an effective outreach plan to market to the public.
- Conduct research and develop youth activity sheets and/or fact sheets related to air and water quality.
- Develop an interactive activity to be used during presentations or community events, demonstrating the impact air and/or water quality has on community health.
• Develop a comprehensive outreach plan for public and charter schools with a goal to reduce vehicle idling around schools. Plans could include incorporating a “pocket park” on the school site, which can act as a parent waiting area to reduce vehicle idling, and an outdoor environmental learning center for students.

• Develop a proposal for an education program regarding the impact that the creation and use of electronics, such as cell phones, have on the environment from cradle to grave.

**Student Characteristics**
Dependable; detail-oriented; demonstrates initiative in pursuing tasks, identifying resources and requesting assistance as needed; ability to analyze information and highlight the most important aspects related to reaching the public and protecting public health. Creative problem-solving talents helpful.

**Organization Background**
Since 1989, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) has been a regulatory agency serving Pima County by protecting public health and the environment. PDEQ operates programs that monitor air and water quality, hazardous waste, solid waste, and promotes waste minimization, and pollution prevention. PDEQ also provides public outreach and education, processes environmental permits, and responds to public complaints and inquiries with investigations and enforcement.

**Where**
Much of the tasks shall be performed in a professional office setting in downtown Tucson. Offsite work may be conducted within the local community at locations such as schools, neighborhood parks, or businesses to accommodate special outreach events.

**When**
Student interns may work between 150 and 270 hours per semester or session. PDEQ offices are open Monday through Friday from 8am – 5pm. Weekend work might be scheduled, only to accommodate special events. Schedule is flexible within these time parameters.

**Supervision**
Direct supervision will be provided by Karen Wilhelmsen, Community Education Manager, within PDEQ’s Public Outreach & Education Division.

**Compensation/Benefits**
Services rendered by student interns are considered to be educational in nature, and therefore, no monetary compensation shall be paid by PDEQ. Any salary, stipend, and/or benefits, due an intern shall be the sole responsibility of the University of Arizona.

**Application Contact Information**
Applications may be sent to:  
Karen Wilhelmsen  
Pima County Department of Environmental Quality  
33 North Stone Ave., Suite 700  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
Or e-mail to:  
karen.wilhelmsen@pima.gov

**Questions?** Phone (520) 724-7449 or e-mail karen.wilhelmsen@pima.gov.