

Types of Internship Placements categorized by Areas of Concentration (AOC)

NOTE: *The "Areas of Concentration" listed below are the categories we use to organize internship opportunities as well as research. Each AOC includes one or more "Grand Challenges." Using the Senior Sequence on-line database students join a research team associated with one of the Grand Challenges. We also use the AOCs listed below to cluster student's posters (story-boards showcasing their research) into meaningful group displays at USP's annual Urban Expo (in mid-March).*

1. Architecture and Urban Design

Public and private sector internships in the field of architecture, urban design and historic preservation. Duties may include drafting, model making, facilities planning and design, and research. Opportunities in historic preservation include work with museums as well as community-based cultural heritage organizations.

2. Community & Economic Development

Public and non-profit sector internships with agencies or organizations dedicated to promoting community and/or economic development. Duties may involve helping businesses, community groups, neighborhoods and social networks improve economic opportunity, community well-being and empowerment. Project activities may include work/research on redevelopment plans, economic development strategies, community outreach, job creation, industry retention/attraction.

3. Environment

Public, private and non-profit sector internships dealing with environmental issues. Duties may include regulatory agency research (e.g., analysis of violations and compliance data), conservation and energy planning, pollution prevention, environmental mitigation monitoring and evaluation, risk assessment, watershed planning, industry research in the area of environmental science and technology, and planning for ecologically sustainable development.

4. Housing

Public and non-profit sector internships dealing with housing construction including efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing and expand home ownership among low income and disadvantaged groups. Interns in the field of housing may do work involving land use and site feasibility studies for affordable units. Other opportunities focus on regulations regarding smart growth (mixed use development), construction permits, housing density, etc.

5. Infrastructure and Public Facilities

Opportunities are available, or can be created, for students interested in infrastructure planning and development (e.g., transportation, airports, water systems, sewer lines, cyberinfrastructure including wireless communications hardware and communications links). Transportation and infrastructure internships may include crossborder work with organizations in Mexico.

6. Public Health, Safety and Welfare

Public and non-profit sector internships dealing with health care research, services, and outreach. Duties may include preparation of an environmental health status report for the County of San Diego, empowering communities to achieve improved health status, research on sexually transmitted diseases in high risk areas, community outreach and program development.

7. Transportation Planning

Opportunities are available, or can be created, for students interested in infrastructure planning and development (e.g., transportation, airports, water systems, sewer lines, cyberinfrastructure including wireless communications hardware and communications links). Transportation and infrastructure internships may include crossborder work with organizations in Mexico.

8. Tribal Policy and Planning

The U.S. Constitution and treaties recognize Native American communities as separate and independent political communities within the territorial boundaries of the United States. In the San Diego region, there are 17 federally-recognized tribal nations with jurisdiction over 18 reservations – the most in any county in the United States. Tribal governments have been frustrated by the complexity of working with various local entities and not being involved in regional planning processes which affect their communities. This AOC focuses on the kinds of policy and planning issues Tribes are tackling, not just in San Diego but also nationally and globally.

9. Urban and Regional Planning

Public and private sector internships that involve administration, consulting, zoning review, and other activities in the field of urban and regional planning. Duties may include assistance in mapping land use, preparing databases and plans, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and research. Planning and planning-related internships may include crossborder work with organizations in Mexico.

10. US-Mexico Border Planning

The U.S.-Mexico Border region covers more than 2,000 miles long from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean; it is formally defined as the area extending 100 kilometers (62.5 miles) from either side of the international border (i.e., a 200 kilometer swath of land bisected by the international border). The U.S.-Mexico border has fourteen "sister cities". Each of these sister-city pairs form a "transfrontier metropolis, a single cross-border functional living space with U.S. and Mexican dwellers" (Herzog 1998). San Diego-Tijuana is the largest and wealthiest city-region on the U.S.-Mexico border—it has a total population of 4.1 million people (2.8 million in the San Diego metropolitan area and 1.3 million in Tijuana). The SD-TJ city-region's population is expected to swell to 8 million by 2030 (Kiy and Kada 2004). This AOC examines planning and development along the border including efforts to deal the following challenges: housing costs are sky rocketing; urban sprawl and a proposed triple border fence threaten rural communities and sensitive habitats of binational ecological importance; transportation infrastructure is insufficient to service the growing traffic; and water and energy supply is becoming an increasingly urgent and hotly contested issue (Kiy and Kada 2004).