

# ESS 487: Internship

**Course Description:** Supervised work experience in professional settings related to Ecosystem Science and Sustainability.

**Prerequisite:** [ESS 320](#).

**Registration Information:** Written consent of instructor.

**Terms Offered:** Fall, Spring, Summer.

**Grade Mode:** S/U Sat/Unsat Only.

**Special Course Fee:** No.

## [ESS 487 Internship Guide](#)

- Internship Approval & Justification
- Internship Agreement
- Photography Consent
- Release of Records



**ALL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE OF SEMESTER**

**YOU PLAN TO ENROLL IN ESS 487**

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## What qualifies?

- You may intern with **any organization that advances work related to fields of ecosystem science and sustainability and has a position available for you to directly engage in their work in ecosystem science and/or sustainability**—for example, through research, analysis, monitoring, evaluation, public engagement, policy development, education, or outreach.
- **This includes organizations in government, business, and nonprofit sectors.**
- You may not intern with an organization if you will not directly engage in work related to ecosystems science and sustainability. For example, if you are offered a position with an environmental consulting firm as a receptionist to answer phone calls or a courier to deliver blueprints and documents, such positions do not qualify as directly engaging in work in ecosystem science and sustainability.
- **When in doubt, visit with ESS Internship Coordinator, Dr. Kaye Holman,** to determine if the internship will qualify.

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What is the time commitment, and can I be paid?

- **1 credit** – Canvas-based course with professional development modules to complete DURING the internship
- **4 credits** – Actual Internship Placement
- **180-hour placement**
  - 16-week semester: ~ 12-15 hours/week
  - 6-week summer placement: 30 hours/week
- Yes, you may be PAID by the employer. In fact, that's encouraged!



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## Costs

- 5 credits of tuition and fees in the semester(s) in which you undertake the internship.
  - For summer, this is the SAME as the CSU Mountain Campus costs minus the course fee charges.
- **CSU Financial Aid Eligible?**
  - Typically, it's to your advantage to ensure you are at least half-time.
  - If ESS 487 is the only course taken, you can **opt to enroll for 6 credits and complete a 235-hour placement.**
  - Confirm your aid eligibility, discuss aid options, and determine enrollment strategy with [CSU Financial Aid](#).

