

Urban Achieving: The CUE experience



center
FOR
URBAN
ecology

I. *The BASICS*

While there are various incentives and levels of commitment for students at the CUE, we hold our students to high standards to ensure our work reflects our leading role in urban ecology. To that end, we have guidelines that will help you understand our expectations for you throughout your experience with us.

CUE students will be expected to:

1) Be creative, innovative, and independent in project ideas and execution

Creativity is highly valued at the CUE as many of our city's ecological problems will only be overcome through out-of-the-box thinking. We would rather our interns take a chance on a new idea, not being afraid of failure, rather than working in a safe, conventional space. Innovation and creativity occurs through the way we communicate, the collaborations we build, and the way we perform our studies. Staff will support you with time and financial resources as new ideas emerge, but we expect a level of independence that may be challenging.

2) Engage in civic reflection

We are not performing research for research's sake. We are part of larger communities at Butler, in the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood, in the city of Indianapolis, and in the larger network of cities around the county. In this sense, we want to reflect on the ways in which our urban ecological projects relate to civic life. Weekly meetings will be part of this reflection as each intern will have a chance to lead the group in a discussion on how their work relates to the broader community in which they live.

3) Have a transdisciplinary perspective

Transdisciplinarity refers to projects that link scientists and practitioners. This perspective is inherently oriented towards real-world problem solving and we want you to understand that your work will not simply end up as a report or published paper, but contribute to actual changes in the way the city looks or functions.

4) Understand timely urban ecology issues

One way we can better engage the city and urban culture with ecological understanding is to be current in our urban ecological knowledge using academic and popular literature or online sources. We may incorporate readings or discussions of local excursions into our meetings.

Nuts and bolts:

- We will have weekly meetings as a group to discuss project issues, CUE events, opportunities for civic engagement and other urban ecology topics. Be prepared to share with your fellow interns about your current projects and use this time to recruit assistance if needed.
- Work hours are flexible, but we expect approximately 10 hours/week during the semester if you are receiving a stipend. Internships for credit are based on the number of credit hours.
- We have plenty of gear at the CUE that we would be happy for you to use like monitoring equipment, a video camera, GPS units, etc. Just ask and if we don't have it, we will try to get it for you.
- We're not a big fan of excuses, so don't make them.
- Show up on time to meetings. We all are busy and need to be respectful of people's time.
- Work hard, but have fun!

II. *The HUNT*

Based on feedback from last summer, the CUE interns really enjoyed the group dynamic, group meetings and the field trips that we took off campus. However, during the current semester and the numerous schedules we are juggling it is very difficult to organize a group trip off campus. So, this semester we are going to make things interesting.

This semester the CUE Intern Experience is implementing an Urban Ecology Scavenger Hunt! A list of 18 Urban Ecology activities is provided below. **Each intern must complete a total of 12 activities** from the prescribed list. You **MUST** photo-document each item you choose to check off of your list. You may also want to include tickets stubs or other materials that you gather (Maps, brochures, etc). We have a color scanner in the CUE office that you may use to scan and e-mail the materials to yourself. The more photos or videos the better!

Why do you need to document this all? We will host a presentation at the end of the semester. Each student will prepare a slide show of all of their images for fellow interns and guests to observe. **ALSO-** pick your favorite activity and provide a brief (1 page single spaced) description of how the activity relates to urban ecology as defined by the CUE. How did your visit or experience affect you? Make you see the city in a new way? Inspire you do try something new or approach a problem differently. Be prepared to share this topic at the presentation. Be creative and have fun!

1. Ride IndyGO
2. Visit an urban farm (not the CUEs)
3. Eat from a food truck
4. IMA 100 acres
5. Visit the Eitlejorg
6. Bike, run or walk an urban trail (monon, cultural, fall creek, etc)
7. Visit Eagle creek
8. Visit a small, urban Indy park
9. Visit a Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTT) site
10. Attend a Public meeting (Local/State government, Neighborhood association, etc)
11. Attend an organizational meeting for a local non-profit or community organization (Ask Faculty for ideas)
12. Visit/ Tour of a LEED building (not the Pharmacy building on campus)
13. Visit the highest point in Marion County (Hint: it's somewhere in Crown Hill Cemetery)
14. Try something new at the City Market
15. Volunteer for a Clean-Up event (OR PLAN ONE for the CUE White River)
16. Tour one of Indianapolis' Historic Neighborhoods (Chatham Arch, Irvington, Fountain Square, Lockerbie Square, etc.)
17. Visit a Farmer's Market
18. DESIGN YOUR OWN: if you find out about a location or event that you think is relevant, do it.

****Use the buddy system! Plan to travel in pairs with a fellow student or get your friends and family involved! ****



III. *The MATRIX*

There are different types of students at the CUE. Our expectations and your responsibilities are related to the type of internship experience you are involved in. Students who wish to work with the CUE will be required to perform an initial semester at the ‘Urban Achieving’ level. This will allow the CUE staff to evaluate the student and ensure a good fit. After this trial semester, a student may advance to more specific and in depth projects with the CUE. There are various levels of compensation, and the CUE is committed to working with your advisor and department to develop internship and independent study experiences in exchange for academic credit when appropriate. Ultimately, the experience is driven by the student and you will get what you give.

CLASSIFICATION	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPENSATION	EXAMPLES
Project Based Intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Weekly Meetings Perform Scavenger Hunt Work on specific project as determined by CUE staff and advisors 	Stipend	Sustainability Intern
Independent Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Weekly Meetings Perform Scavenger Hunt Work on specific project as proposed by student, CUE staff and/or advisory faculty 	Credit	BSI, Green Roof project
Urban Achiever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Weekly Meetings Perform Scavenger Hunt Participate in all projects at various levels depending on need 	Personal Satisfaction	This is the first level of internship commitment at the CUE
Farm Intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Weekly Meetings Perform Scavenger Hunt Assist Campus Farm manager in all aspects of running the farm May develop a project associated with the farm 	Credit or Stipend	Student Farm assistant
External Community Project Intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Weekly Meetings Perform Scavenger Hunt Work off campus with an external mentor or organization 	Credit or Stipend	Wings over Indy Indiana Wildlife Federation
Internal Community Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with project mentor to complete project and project requirements 	Stipend	College of Education farm outreach intern

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III. The MATRIX

Sample Projects:

- BioDiesel
- Green Roof and biodiversity
- Farm, IM Fields, Prairie biodiversity
- Keep Indianapolis Beautiful I-70 monitoring
- St. Clair neighborhood monitoring
- Farm maintenance and planning
- The CUE Sweet Bees
- Public Health: Obesity and neighborhoods
- Lilly: Reconnecting our Waterways
- RAINDROP Evaluation
- Campus Sustainability efforts
- Farm Structure Planning
- Event Planning:
 - Hoosier Riverwatch & River Clean Up
 - Brown Bag Lunches
 - FoodCon
 - Campus Sweep
 - Student recruitment/ engagement
- Bluebird Nest box monitoring
- Monarch Watch
- Rain Barrel Monitoring Project
- Urban Turtle project
- Road Kill project
- Urban Restoration:
 - Fountain Park

