

GRADUATE EXTERNSHIP LEARNING AGREEMENT

Please return to: Graduate Program Director, School of Journalism
The University of Montana, Don Anderson Hall 201
32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812
FAX (406) 243-5369

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STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____ ID# _____

Address: _____
(city) (state) (zip)

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Expected Date of Graduation: _____

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EXTERNSHIP INFORMATION

Semester of Placement: Sp Su F 20__ Employment Dates: from / / to / /

Work Schedule: __ hours/week Compensation: volunteer __ other _____

Company Name _____

Company Address: _____

Supervisor's Name/Title: _____ Phone: _____

Supervisor's E-mail: _____

Extern's Position Title: _____

Please list duties and specific projects and explain how they fulfill the student's educational objectives:

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SIGNATURES

Student: _____ Date: _____

Externship Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Adviser: _____ Date: _____

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About the Master's program:

Founded in the fall of 2010, the Master's program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism responds to a critical need for journalists trained to tell compelling stories that illuminate the complex relationship between nature and society. In addition to advanced training in journalism, students choose courses from an array of subjects reflecting the University of Montana's commitment to the conservation of nature and the wellbeing of humanity.

The two-year program draws from disciplines ranging from the hard sciences to geography, ethics and the law. It closely collaborates with other UM departments and schools like the internationally acclaimed College of Forestry and Conservation.

Students produce print and photo stories, multi-media projects, web and broadcast documentaries that address global as well as regional issues like wilderness policy, environmental health, endangered species, forestry and mining practices, and the management of public lands, climate change and natural resources.

About the externship:

The externship provides students with practical insights into the operations of environmental science and natural resource companies, agencies, organizations or laboratories. By acting as participant observers, they build a deeper understanding of issues they will later report on. This will enhance their ability to serve the public, once they graduate from the program.

The purpose of the externship is to "switch sides": Rather than working as reporters, editors or communications specialists, as they would during an internship, students work as firefighters, field technicians, farmhands, lab assistants or contract laborers. They shadow company executives and contribute to research, but they don't help develop publications or write press releases.

As a rule, students will not report stories about their host organization or company during their externship. But the contacts they acquire will be valuable for their reporting in the future, so their hosts should expect to hear from them after they've completed their externship.

The externship is part of the graduate program's core curriculum. To receive credit, students must register for JOUR 690, a three-credit course, and provide written and signed proof of completion of 240 hours of work at the host organization.

Contact:

The University of Montana's School of Journalism
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