



What is the Building Performance Lab's Intern Energy Program?

FAQs for Prospective Interns

1. What is the Building Performance Lab?

As New York City's only public university, CUNY has a special role to play in preparing a workforce that can meet the city's needs. The Building Performance Lab is at the forefront of the move to meet CUNY and the city's sustainability goals. We offer workforce development programs, including the Intern Energy Program and continuing education classes, and we've convened a Stakeholder Consortium drawn from a cross-section of the real estate sector that meets regularly to discuss the challenges of going green.

2. What is the Intern Energy Program?

Since 2006, our intern program has supplemented and built on academic programs across CUNY – engineering, architecture and architectural technology, computer sciences, business, and urban planning – to create career pathways into building energy/carbon management and urban sustainability.

As a Lab, we offer:

- In-house skills training and mentoring
- Placement
- Job opportunities
- Computer facilities and some special-purpose software

With a grant from CUNY's Workforce Development Initiative, we are scaling up the program in the 2008-2009 academic year, which will mean more positions at a greater variety of firms and organizations.

3. What kind of internships does the program offer?

With the wide range of placement opportunities, every internship is different. Broadly speaking, interns will gain skills in the following areas:

- Benchmarking of building energy use, analyzing and tracking data with tools such as the EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager.
- Monitoring or studying HVAC systems.
- Using portable instrumentation, such as dataloggers, to collect and analyze data.
- Reviewing research, literature, and tools on behalf of the Lab and its partners.

4. Where do internships take place?

Interns participate on a variety of projects in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. In the past, they've interned with facilities managers, like the CUNY Office of Design, Construction and Management (DCM); engineering firms, like Amicus Energy Solutions; and property managers, like Time Equities Properties. The Lab is also assigning interns to projects for government agencies, like the New York City Departments of Education and Health. In the 2008-2009 academic year, we will begin placing interns with non-profit grassroots organizations as well.

Some interns may also participate in research and analysis projects commissioned by the Lab and its partners. For example, student researchers contributed to the Lab's report on the city's building code, "Decoding the Code," commissioned by the Sallan Foundation and available on their website: <http://www.sallan.org/Decoding-the-Code/index.php>.

5. Who is eligible to apply for an internship?

CUNY students studying diverse topics relating to urban technology and environmental issues, including Facilities Management, Engineering, Architecture and Architectural Technology, Environmental Technology, Business, and Urban Planning.

6. What skills must interns have?

You'll learn many skills in the course of the internship, but we try to make sure that you begin your internship with the basic knowledge and skills sought by your employer. That may mean you receive in-house training in energy terms and modeling, basic calculations, and data recording and analysis. But all interns should have good communication and arithmetic skills, and should be proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel.

7. What is a typical intern schedule and pay?

Interns usually intern about 14 hours a week (2 days), at a rate of \$12-15 an hour, depending on the position. Please note that it's important to be able to schedule 2 full work days per week.

8. How can I apply for an internship or learn more about the program?

Contact the Building Performance Lab's Program Development Associate, Nora Sherman, at nora_sherman@baruch.cuny.edu or 646-660-6978 to request a Fact Sheet on the program, which includes brief biographies of our interns.

When you're ready to apply, submit a cover letter and resume to Nora.

For more information, you may also visit our website: <http://www.cunyurbansystems.org/pages/building-performance-lab.php>.