**Award Type: Summer Internships in Vector Biology**

The mission of the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence (CoE) in Vector-Borne Diseases (PacVec) is to enhance the capacity of the southwestern United States to respond to threats from vector-borne diseases that affect human health. The mission will be achieved through a combination of research, training, and collaboration with public health and vector control agencies at all levels. The CoE is funded by the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/).

Proposals are invited for summer internship opportunities that are consistent with the CoE mission and should address themes relevant for public-health policy. Proposals for this award type must involve undergraduate summer internships that offer opportunities for practical training and experience in public-health entomology or related fields.

Undergraduate interns may gain experience through summer work with a partner mosquito/vector control or public health agency or through research with faculty investigators at eligible institutions (see below). Summer experience should be combined if possible with mentored, on-campus experience in laboratory or field methods, data analysis and scientific writing during the academic year. Ideally, projects would culminate in networking opportunities and a presentation of results at a state or regional vector control or public health meeting.

These internships are intended to provide career development opportunities for individuals interested in public-health-relevant research on vector-borne diseases. Consistent with [CDC’s commitment to build an inclusive STEM workforce](https://www.cdc.gov/stem/workforce/building-stem-workforce.html), efforts should also be described in the proposal for ensuring that the program reaches the most diverse student audience possible, including efforts to involve under-represented populations.

Preference will be given to projects that involve the following: (1) collaboration with public health, vector control, or other agencies relevant to PacVec’s mission, and (2) matching funds from collaborating agencies or the investigators’ institution.

**Award Amount:** PacVec has a total of $12,000 to award for internships during 2024. We expect to fund 3-6 awards of approximately $1,000-$5,000 each. Funding amounts per project will vary based on the total number of proposals received, quality of proposed internship experiences, and identified needs for financial support. Awards are intended to support internships that can be completed during a project period of one year between 5/1/2024 – 4/30/2025. Ideally, internships would include a summer experience and potentially opportunities for continued mentorship and attendance at a professional meeting during the 2024-2025 academic year. Carryforward of funds is not permitted beyond the funding period. There is a limit of one internship proposal per faculty mentor, per year.

**Eligibility.** Proposals are invited from mentors at any of the following collaborating institutions within PacVec:

* University of California, Davis
* University of California, Riverside
* San Francisco State University
* University of the Pacific
* University of Arizona
* Translational Genomics Research Institute
* The University of Utah

All investigators with a faculty title at the institutions above are eligible to apply as a mentor for these internships.

**Budget Restrictions:** Funding must be used exclusively to support the intern(s). Examples of allowable expenses include salary and benefits for undergraduate interns, research supplies, or related travel. Please include travel funds or clearly identified matching funds that will enable the intern to attend a professional meeting to network and present their results. No subcontracts allowed.

**Indirect Costs:** These small grants are supported through federal flow-through funds from CDC. If your institution requires budgeting for indirect costs, they must be included within the requested amount.

**Reporting:** A final report will be due 60 days after the end of the project period.

To apply for the 2024 undergraduate internship program, complete the form below:

Name of mentor:

Institution:

Contact Phone:

Contact Email:

How many interns will be included in the proposed project?

Describe the process by which the intern(s) were/will be recruited and selected, including any limitations on eligibility (e.g., 1st-3rd year students, specific majors, etc.). Also describe any approaches to maximize awareness of the opportunity and diversity of the applicant pool.

Briefly describe the proposed internship experience (1 page limit). Include a description of the summer plans and any mentored on-campus experience, conferences, or other opportunities to be provided for networking and presentation of results.

How will success be measured?

**Completed proposals or questions should be submitted by email to** **training@pacvec.us****.**