

Internship Program

Background

From its Canadian Headquarters (Ottawa, On, Canada), and through its US affiliate, Athena Institute International, the Athena Sustainable Materials Institute works to further the cause of sustainability of the built environment through the following three-pronged approach:

1. design and manage research projects to develop consistent, reliable environmental life cycle inventory data for a full range of building and infrastructure product groups, which means working with most major industrial sectors;
2. develop, adapt and apply tools to improve environmental assessment capabilities for building products, whole buildings and selected infrastructure; and
3. advance the practice and application of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to the built environment through contract research and a variety of international collaborative activities and educational outreach programs.

Over the past decade, the Institute has developed a worldwide reputation in the field of sustainable building and LCA. The Institute shares its knowledge and expertise through world-class LCA databases, groundbreaking software, and customized consulting services.

The Institute's proprietary software, the *Impact Estimator* (IE), is North America's only whole building life cycle assessment software. The IE is capable of simulating over 1,000 different assembly combinations, or about 95% of the building stock, on a regional N. American basis. It puts the environment on an equal footing with other more traditional design criteria at the conceptual design stage of a building project.

For more information on the Institute, its databases and software products, please visit our website (<http://www.athenaSMI.ca>).

Internships (Location - Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)

Objective

The objective of the Athena SMI Internship Program is to provide individuals who meet our qualifications the opportunity to work in a professional research environment and to acquire hands-on experience developing knowledge and research in the area of environmental and economic life cycle assessment as applied to building materials, whole buildings and infrastructure required to service buildings – an area which consumes more of the earth's resources than any other human activity. As a team member, our interns will have the opportunity to enhance their learning and will be able to contribute his/her perspective, interests and knowledge to the projects in which he/she is involved. Our goal is to maximize the benefit to the intern, the Institute and to our clients.



Summer or Undergraduate Program Interns

Responsibilities

The Athena Institute typically offers three month (summer) to one-year (undergraduate co-op) internships. Duties of interns will vary according to the project needs and the intern's ability. The intern will participate in the full scope of our work from preparing research proposals through to final client reports. Responsibilities may include:

- applied research
- applied computing and database management
- operations oriented research
- writing and preparing presentation materials
- technical analysis
- working with clients

Qualifications

- Minimum 3 years completed toward undergraduate degree. Relevant studies include: Environmental Studies; Civil, Industrial or Chemical Engineering; Architecture
- Ability to demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills – especially English writing skills
- Demonstrated research ability
- Self-motivated and requires minimal supervision
- Results oriented
- Proficient in standard Microsoft computer applications
- Established interest in environmental issues
- Demonstrated knowledge of LCA is an asset
- Strong recommendations from advisors, professors or department heads.

Compensation

Summer and undergraduate interns are paid \$2,200 to 2,600 per month (depending on qualifications). The Institute's offices are located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Housing information is available on the Carleton University and the Ottawa University websites.

Interested candidates please submit a cover letter, resume and letters of recommendation to: internship@athenasmi.ca



Graduate Interns

Responsibilities

The Athena Institute typically offers six month to one-year graduate internships. Duties of our interns will vary according to the project needs and the intern's ability. The intern will participate in the full scope of our work from preparing research proposals through to final reports. Responsibilities may include:

- applied research
- applied computing and database management
- operations oriented research
- writing and preparing presentation materials
- technical analysis
- working with clients

Qualifications

- An earned graduate degree. Relevant studies include: Environmental Studies; Civil, Industrial or Chemical Engineering; Architecture
- Demonstrated ability to work independently
- Conduct analysis at an advanced level. Such ability may be demonstrated by completion of a thesis, relevant work experience or other professional activities
- Communicate and work effectively in a team environment
- Demonstrated research ability
- Strong English writing skills
- Proficient in standard Microsoft computer applications
- Established interest in environmental issues
- Demonstrated knowledge of LCA is an asset
- Strong recommendations from thesis advisors, professors or department heads.

Compensation

Graduate interns are paid \$3,200 to \$3,600 per month. The Institute's offices are located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Housing information is available on the Carleton University and the Ottawa University websites.

Interested candidates please submit a cover letter, resume and letters of recommendation to: internship@athenasmi.ca