

Q-STEP SUMMER INTERNSHIPS 2021

GEO - Regional decision making for the planet

Organisation and Team

Group on Earth Observations

Selection Method

Written CV & cover letter followed by an interview

Application Criteria

Essential:

- Previous research experience and strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently and professionally
- Ability to write clearly and concisely
- Detail-oriented and well-organized
- Facility with Excel, Word, and Web browsers

Desirable:

- Demonstrated interest in international policy and development
- Ability to read technical project documentation
- An awareness of geospatial technology, including Earth observations

Key Words

Earth observations, geopolitical environmental open data collaboration, international policy decisions

Project Outline

The intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) implements its global vision of enabling effective use of Earth observations to inform national public policy and support action. To achieve this, the GEO community develops projects that make best use of environmental data and information to produce decision-support tools. The collection of these projects is the GEO Work Programme (GWP).

To account for vast differences in geopolitical, cultural and social environments around the world, GEO is implementing its vision by leveraging five regional networks – regional GEOs – to communicate and extend the results of GWP projects to the national governments. Regional GEOs are set up to promote the collective global vision of GEO while addressing the particular needs of decision makers in those regions. The GEO Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland, endeavours to collaborate effectively with the regional GEOs to ensure consistent application of GEO's core principles and enable sharing of knowledge and good practice across the regional networks.

The internship opportunity is to assess the needs and policy priorities in three out of five GEO regions: Africa (AfriGEO); South, Central and North America (AmeriGEO) and Asia-Oceania (AOGEO), and match those with the GWP projects that are best positioned to provide decision-support. The assessment of the regional GEOs would involve identifying and documenting prominent geopolitical, cultural and social factors that serve as important context when engaging and communicating with the national actors. The methodology for conducting the assessment will involve analysis of the GWP activities, interviews with the leadership of the regional GEOs, GEO members in the region, analysis/review of grey literature on countries' needs and the local response to global policy drivers, such as the UN 2030 Agenda.