



## CURRENT 2025 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

### General Internship Information

**Position Type:** Internship

**Location:** Hybrid, with both in-person and virtual work required (Current's offices are located at 200 W Madison St, Chicago, IL 60606)

**Compensation range:** \$22-28/hour

**Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship.** Please note that Current does not provide visa sponsorship for interns. International students are eligible for internships, but they must follow specific procedures based on their visa type, typically involving authorization from their university or program sponsor.

**Application Deadline: Wednesday, April 30, 2025**

[COMPLETE OUR ONLINE APPLICATION HERE](#)

Please review the following internship descriptions for additional details and requirements for each role:

### Commercialization Intern (Commercial Ecosystem Mapping)

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 3-4 years of college courses**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour (at 20 hrs/week)**

#### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking an intern to support the commercialization of water technologies. The Commercial Ecosystem Mapping Intern will catalogue ecosystem assets such as testbeds, incubators, university tech transfer offices and innovation programs, accelerator programs, and find additional partners and networks to collaborate with the Great Lakes ReNEW Regional Innovation Engine.

- Research & Cataloging:
  - Identify and document water technology testbeds, incubators, accelerators, university tech transfer offices, and innovation programs.
  - Create and maintain a comprehensive database of ecosystem assets.
- Partner & Network Development:
  - Research and identify potential partners (industry, non-profit, government).
  - Map network connections and assist with preliminary outreach.
- Reporting & Documentation:
  - Prepare regular progress reports and a final ecosystem map.
  - Assist in presentation creation.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:**

- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Commercialization Intern (Water Technology Scouting)

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 3-4 years of college courses, or graduate student**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

**INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:**

Current is seeking an intern to support the commercialization of water technologies. The Scouting Intern will focus on scouting new water technologies and startups, especially ones that align with the Great Lakes ReNEW Regional Innovation Engine. These startups would be prospects for accelerator programs and other ReNEW commercialization activities. Tasks will include:

**Water Technology Research:**

- Conduct in-depth online research to identify emerging water technologies and innovations..
- Monitor industry publications, research journals, patent databases, and technology news sources for relevant developments and companies.

**Startup Scouting:**

- Identify and research early and growth stage water technology startups through online databases (e.g., Crunchbase, PitchBook), startup directories, and social media platforms.
- Evaluate identified technologies and startups based on their alignment with the Great Lakes ReNEW Regional Innovation Engine's strategic priorities and focus areas around selective separation and resource recovery technologies.
- Assess the potential impact of identified technologies on the Great Lakes region's water challenges.
- Research and document funding sources for identified startups.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:**

- Strong research and analytical skills

- Ability to quickly learn and understand new technologies
- Familiarity with the startup ecosystem and venture capital landscape (preferred)
- Proficiency in online research tools and databases
- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Community Building & Engagement Intern

**Recommended Experience: Completed 2-3 years of college courses**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking a Community Building & Engagement intern to support the development of peer learning cohorts. This is an opportunity to build and deliver educational and career enrichment programs for a regional internship cohort. The Community Building & Engagement intern will help their peers connect with professionals and each other, and engage them in learning experiences to build their understanding of the region's circular blue economy. This role includes, but is not limited to:

- Planning, coordinating, and organizing learning experiences for peers in the ReNEW coalition
- Creating marketing content to promote learning experiences within the ReNEW coalition
- Collecting and analyzing feedback on learning experiences

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Interest or experience in community building, community organizing, human resources, and/or higher education
- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Contracts & Compliance Intern

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 3-4 years of college courses, or graduate student**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking an intern to support our contracting and compliance work related to our portfolio of federal grants, foundation awards, and other funding sources. The Contracts & Compliance intern will help perform due diligence on partner compliance assessments and participate in the contract lifecycle with opportunities to participate at each interval along the way.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Learning & Education Intern

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 1-2 years of college courses**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking a Learning & Education Intern to support Current's K-12 STEM education programs by facilitating water-focused learning activities at community events, partner events and/or in schools. This role includes, but is not limited to:

- Leading programs for participants
- Engaging a variety of audiences in learning about water
- Representing Current at events
- Providing feedback and support for developing and evaluating Current's education programs

The Learning & Education Intern may also provide support for other Current events and programs as needed.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Available to work programs on some weekend days

- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

#### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Interest or experience in K-12 education and/or community engagement
- Strong problem solving skills and the ability to adapt quickly in a variety of scenarios
- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Market Research Intern

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Graduate student**

**Number of positions: 3**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

#### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking 3 interns to support blue economy research in the Great Lakes region. Each intern will focus on one of the three technology challenge areas: advanced / novel materials, emerging process technologies or real-time sensors.

- **Advanced / novel materials** will focus on materials for efficient and selective separation of valuable resources and contaminants of emerging concern (e.g., PFAS) from wastewater.
- **Emerging process technologies** refer to technologies that take advantage of recent advances in molecular biology and microbial ecology, to advance recovery of energy (e.g., organic carbon) and other resources from various water sources.
- **Real-time sensors** refers to sensors and their networking for in-line sensing, real-time monitoring, and point-of-location detection of water quality.

The Market Analysis & Research Intern will focus on one of the three challenge areas and analyze market trends and their competitive landscapes, and industry needs related to their specific challenge area and water innovation, sustainability, and resource recovery. This work may also include collaborating with the Water Technology Scouting Intern to review investments made in the industry over the past 2-3 years.

- Researching the existing market for water technologies (target end-users, end-user specific needs, established technologies, major water technology manufacturers, etc)
- Identifying trends in limitations / gaps in the water technology market

#### ELIGIBILITY:

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

#### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Data analysis experience, including familiarity with one of the following: Excel, Power BI, Tableau, Python, R, or similar.

- Exposure to business or entrepreneurship concepts ideal
- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Marketing & Communications Intern

(Funded through Origami Works Foundation)

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 3-4 years of college courses**

**Number of positions: 2**

**Compensation: \$23.30/hour** (at 30 hrs/week)

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

This internship opportunity is funded through [Origami Works Foundation](#) and is for first generation college students. First generation college students are the first in their families to attend college and/or whose parents may have attended some college but did not achieve a college degree. Additional professional development opportunities are available to these interns through a partnership between Origami Works Foundation and The CAFE Group.

Current is seeking a Marketing & Communications Intern to support strategic communications and content development for our Great Lakes ReNEW initiative. This role includes, but is not limited to, developing communications content and collateral materials for distinct programs, platforms, and constituencies; engaging a variety of audiences in learning about water, representing Current at events, and providing feedback and support for developing and evaluating Current's communications and marketing strategies. This experience will provide hands-on experience in digital marketing, content creation, audience engagement, and external communications. The Marketing & Communications Intern may also provide support for other Current events and programs as needed.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Must be a first generation college student (First generation college students are the first in their families to attend college and/or whose parents may have attended some college but did not achieve a college degree.)
- Available to work 40 hours per week, between Monday, June 2, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack), and design tools (e.g., Canva, Adobe Creative Suite)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Science Communications & Events Intern

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 3-4 years of college courses**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking a motivated intern to support communications and event planning efforts related to water technology innovation. This role offers hands-on experience in science communications, marketing, and stakeholder engagement within the water sector. The intern will assist with organizing a virtual seminar series on water technology trends to highlight experts across the region, US, and the globe, support planning for a national convening on water-stressed and water-rich regions, support the launch of our real-time water quality monitoring program, and develop engaging content for social media, blogs, newsletters, and marketing materials.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Assist with event planning, including programming, logistics, and marketing.
- Develop content to translate technical water topics for broader audiences.
- Support program launches and promotional efforts.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack), and design tools (e.g., Canva, Adobe Creative Suite)
- Familiarity with and interest in scientific/technology/engineering concepts
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills, including the ability to translate technical concepts to layperson terms
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Strategy Intern

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 3-4 years of college courses, or graduate student**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking an intern to support the development, implementation and evaluation of our organizational strategic plan. The Strategy Intern may also support Current on fundraising, economic development/policy research and project management.

### ELIGIBILITY:



- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, between Monday, April 14, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:**

- Interest and/or experience in nonprofit management, economic development, strategic planning or other relevant topics
- Curious and learning-oriented (no specific expertise about water or technology required - an interest in learning is plenty)
- Organized and accountable
- An excellent communicator, including strong writing and verbal communication
- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong time management skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Water Technology Intern

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 2-4 years of college courses**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

**INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:**

Current is seeking an intern to support our work with water technologies. The Water Quality Technology Intern responsibilities would include, but will not be limited to:

- Optimizing existing water technology and pilot technology application databases, including identifying metrics to evaluate and categorize water technologies
- Utilizing a variety of resources (researching technologies online, interviewing technology developers, etc) to synthesize and verify the accuracy of existing information
- Assisting with organizing and interpreting information related to commercialization pathways and trends in market gaps for new water technologies

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

**WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:**

- A highly organized candidate with a technical background (engineering, environmental science, chemistry, etc) and an interest in water and wastewater technologies
- Database and/or data analysis experience, including familiarity with one of the following: Airtable, Excel, Power BI, Tableau, Python, R, or similar.
- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills



- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))

## Workforce Development Intern

**Recommended Minimum Experience: Completed 2-4 years of college courses**

**Number of positions: 1**

**Compensation range: \$22-28/hour** (at 20 hrs/week)

### INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:

Current is seeking an intern to support the development and launch of a Workforce Development and STEM Education strategy for water jobs in the Great Lakes region. The Workforce Development Intern will help perform a landscape scan on the training offerings that exist to prepare individuals with the skills and credentials needed to perform these jobs.

- Review data on the high-demand jobs in the water cluster, as well as data from the National Center on Education Statistics (NCES) on enrollments and completions by program type and course of study that align with those jobs.
- Supplement this information with desk research on programs that are not captured by NCES data (such as apprenticeships, community based training providers, non-credit college programs, some for-profit vocational training programs, and others.)
- Help inform the development of a Regional Blue Economy dashboard that highlights these job opportunities and training offerings

The Workforce Intern may also provide support for other Current events and programs as needed.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Available to work up to 20 hours per week, for at least 8 weeks, between Monday, May 19, 2025 - Friday, August 8, 2025
- Available to work in-person at Current's office on Tuesdays between 9 am-5 pm
- Actively enrolled in any higher education courses for the 2025-2026 school year
- Flexibility to attend occasional in-person events in Chicago

### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Interest or experience in workforce development and/or education
- Strong problem solving skills and some experience collecting, organizing, and tracking information
- Familiarity with general software platforms, including Google (Gmail, Drive, Slides), Microsoft365 (Word, Excel, Powerpoint), and various streaming tools (Zoom, Slack)
- Strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Strong time management and organizational skills
- Ability to self-manage projects, deadlines, calendars, and files
- Interest in Current's work ([learn more here](#))