

## 2023 Professional Master's Degree Summer Experience Report

### Executive Summary

Professional master's students seeking summer experiences in the summer of 2023 have started to venture back out into a wider range of opportunities. Ninety-six percent (96%) of Nicholas School professional master's students, Master of Environmental Management (MEM) and Master of Forestry (MF), known to be seeking opportunities reported securing a meaningful summer experience. This report contains data on these experiences, broken down by sector and program area.

### Background, Audience, & Methods

**Background:** The Nicholas School professional master's degree program highly recommends a meaningful summer experience for current students. These experiences, historically called internships, typically occur for 8-12 weeks in the summer between academic years when returning to a full-time degree program the following fall semester. They could be full-time or part-time in duration.

In 2023, summer student experiences also included project-based remote work, research projects, fellowships related to academic coursework, and professional experiences that may extend beyond the summer months. For these purposes, the broader term "summer experience" is used in this report.

**Audience:** The Nicholas School Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) surveyed 163 rising second- or third- year Master of Environmental Management (MEM), Master of Environmental Management or Forestry/Master of Business Administration (MEM or MF/MBA), Master of Environmental Management/Master of Engineering Management (MEM/E-MGT), Master of Environmental Management/Master of Public Policy (MEM/MPP), Master of Environmental Management/Juris Doctor (MEM/JD), Master of Environmental Management/Master of City and Regional Planning (MEM/MCRP), and/or Master of Forestry (MF) students. As the Duke Environmental Leadership Master of Environmental Management (DEL-MEM) students are working environmental professionals, the majority generally do not seek summer experiences, but those who respond to the survey are included.

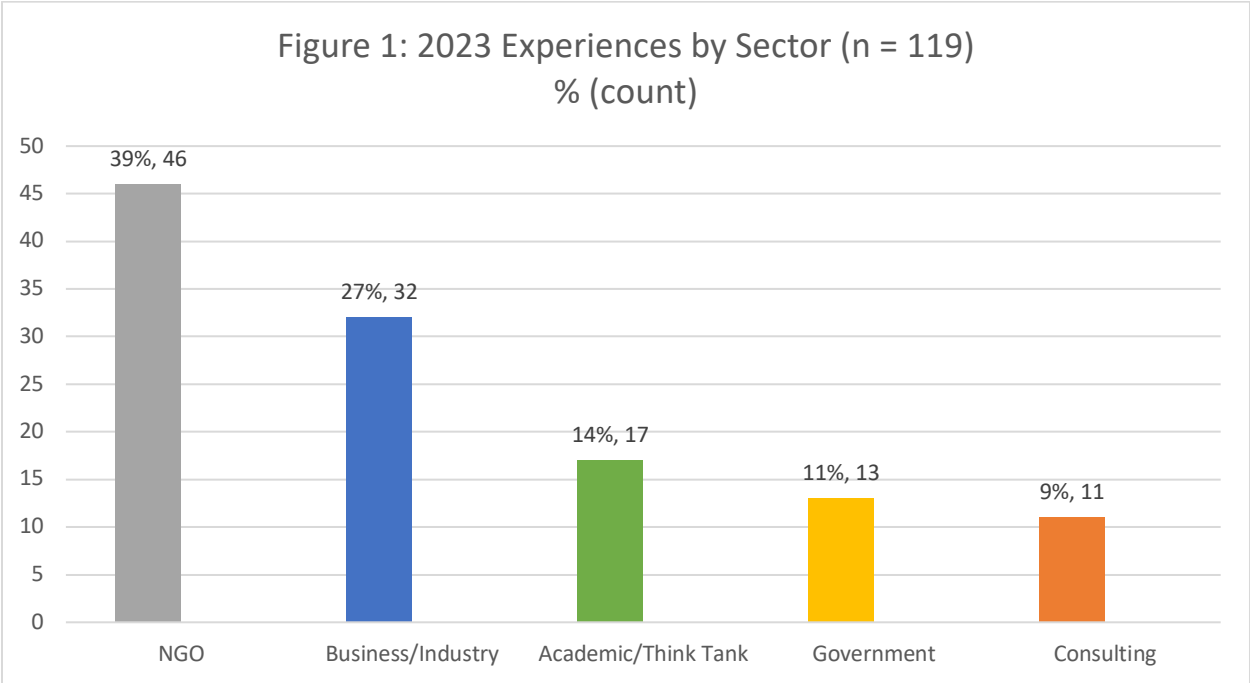
**Methods:** CPDC created and distributed a survey that was sent to the identified audience of 163 students in June 2023 and received 131 survey responses (80% completion rate). Requests for survey completion were followed by online research and email contacts requesting confirmation of summer experience information. Augmented by this knowledge, CPDC obtained information or responses from an additional 16 individuals, for a total of 147 students (90% of the identified audience). *Results Section 1* looks at trends for all survey respondents, and *Results Section 2* provides information by sector, concentration(s), and degree(s) from students who elected to share information via the survey. Ten students were not included in the analysis because they either reported not needing or seeking an experience, or information on their experience could not be obtained by online research or email contact.

# Results Section 1: General Trends

This section of the report analyzes the 147 out of 153 (96%) experiences students known to be seeking experiences reported or were known to have in Summer 2023.

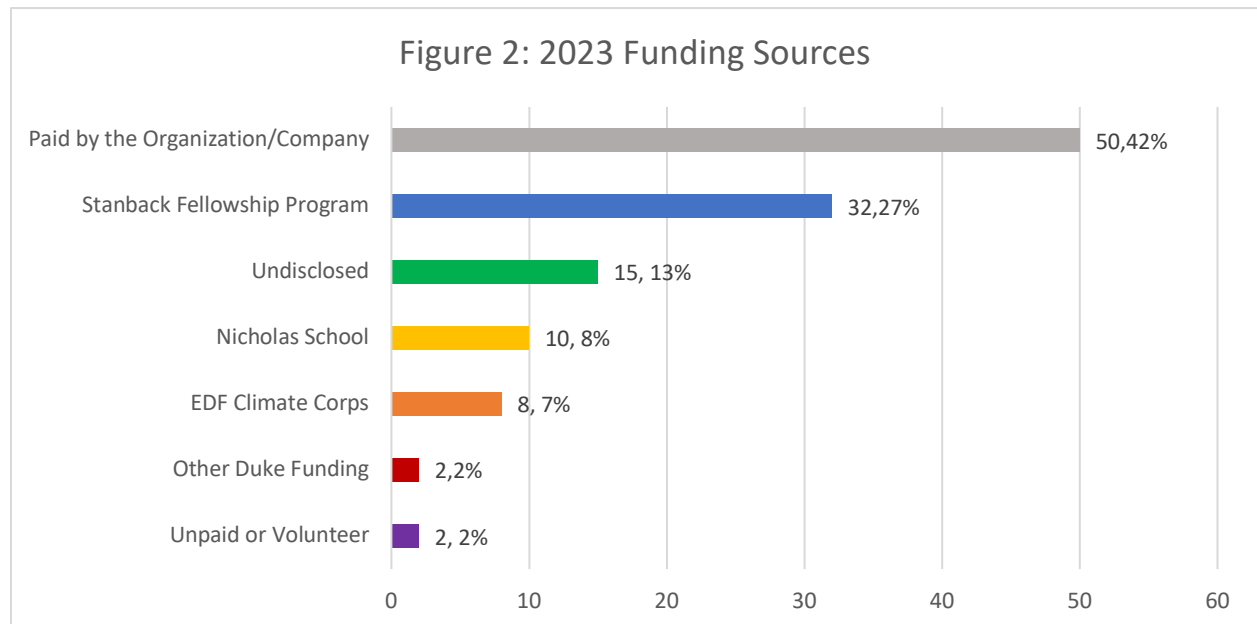
Figure 1: Distribution by Sector

Private sector hosts (Business/Industry = 27% and Consulting = 9%) and NGOs (39%) accounted for 72% of 2023 summer experience hosts. Consulting firms stayed consistent to percentages reported last year in 2022. The Stanback Fellowship Program (SFP) accounted for 67% of the NGO summer experiences.



## Figure 2. Funding Sources

Duke University sources either partially or fully supported at least 37% of summer experiences. For the third straight year, companies or programs providing funding for summer experiences was a higher percentage of funding than Duke-related funds. Nevertheless, the value of this support to individual students remains high.



In its 27<sup>th</sup> year, the [Stanback Fellowship Program](#) (SFP) provided partial funding for Duke students matched with select non-profit hosts for ~11 weeks. The Stanback Fellowship Program consistently accounts for 20-30% of summer experiences. Additional support was made possible by awards from the Edna B. Sussman Foundation, the David R. Brower Fund, the Whitney E. Chamberlain Fund, the Karen Kirchof Internship Fund, and the Kuzmier-Lee-Nikitine (KLN) Fund. 2023 represents the last year the Edna B. Sussman Foundation funding will be available to Nicholas School students as the program announced it is ending after 37 successful years and over 1.1 million dollars in awards made to Duke students.

## Figures 3 and 4. Physical Locations

Experiences ranged from policy or data analysis to business sustainability to field-based experiences in a range of locations and for employers across the globe. United States locations included California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, and Virginia. In 2023, 44% of survey question respondents reported a remote or hybrid experience, a decrease from the 66% in Summer 2022. The work style color scheme indicates whether the student was in a state and conducted in-person work (yellow), remote work from that state (blue), or a hybrid work arrangement (green).

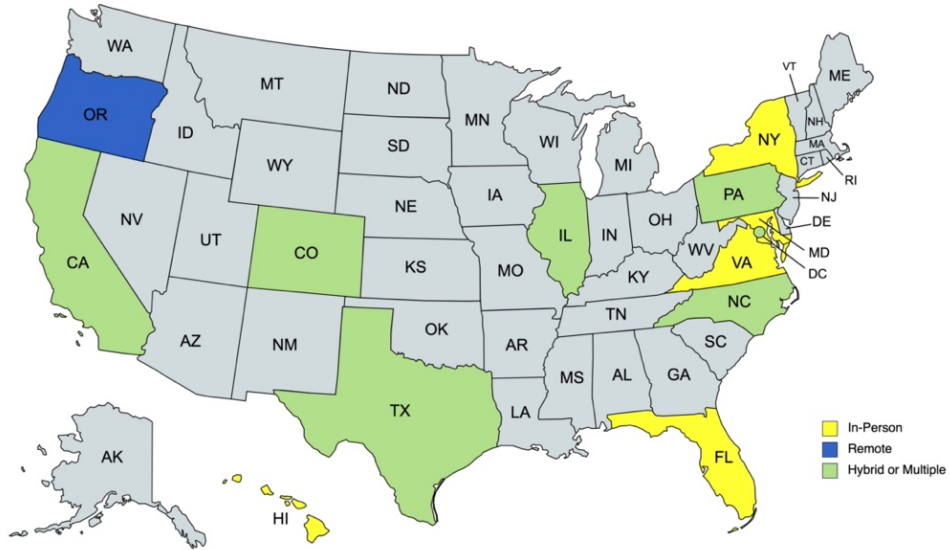


Figure 3: Locations in the United States, 2023

Created with mapchart.net

Figure 4 illustrates the eight students known to have in-person international experiences (red). These include Chile, China (3), Gabon (3), and New Zealand.



Created with mapchart.net

Figure 4. International locations, 2023

# Results Section 2: 2023 Experiences by Degree and Program Area

| Primary Concentration*                              | Host                                                      | Sector                                   | Title                                                                                            |                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Business and Environment (BE)</b>                |                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| Master of Business Administration (MBA)             | McKinsey                                                  | Consulting                               | Summer Associate                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | 3R Sustainability                                         | Consulting                               | ESG Assessment Reviewer                                                                          |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Children's National Hospital                              | NGO (EDF Climate Corps)                  | Climate Corps Fellow                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | U.S. Green Building Council Center for Green Schools      | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Healthy Schools Communication and Outreach Intern                                                |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | EE Dogwood Alliance                                       | NGO (Stanback)                           | Climate Fellow                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA Crowley Maritime                                      | Private                                  | Offshore Wind Intern                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA Land of Sky Regional Council, Waste Reduction Partner | Private                                  | Summer Associate                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |
| MBA                                                 | Matthews International Corporate                          | Private                                  | Sustainability Intern                                                                            |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Ulta Beauty                                               | Private (EDF Climate Corps)              | Sustainability Strategy Fellow                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Genesys                                                   | Private (EDF Climate Corps)              | Sustainability Intern                                                                            |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Coastal Environmental Management (CEM)</b>       |                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| Master of Forestry (MF)                             | NOAA's Southeast Regional Office                          | Federal Government (US)                  | Protected Species Division - Marine Mammal Branch Intern                                         |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration           | Federal Government (US)                  | Junior Acoustician with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's Passive Acoustic Research Group |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center                   | Federal Government (US)                  | Marine Turtle Ecology and Assessment Sussman Fellow                                              |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Duke University Marine Lab (Silliman Lab)                 | Higher Education (Duke)                  | Research Technician                                                                              |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Unique Places to Save (UP2S)                              | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Conservation Intern                                                                              |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | The Nature Conservancy                                    | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | GIS Stewardship Intern                                                                           |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Park Institute of America / National Park Service         | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Climate Adaptation of Historic Structures Intern                                                 |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Conservation International Hawai'i                        | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Sustainable Seafood Intern                                                                       |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | North Carolina Coastal Federation                         | NGO (Stanback)                           | Coastal Policy and Restoration Fellow                                                            |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic                  | NGO (Stanback)                           | Science and Policy Fellow                                                                        |                                                                                                      |
| Three Rivers Land Trust                             | NGO (Stanback)                                            | Baseline Inventory Specialist            |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Ecotoxicology and Environmental Health (EEH)</b> |                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| MBA                                                 | US Environmental Protection Agency                        | Federal Government (US)                  | Pathways Intern/Student Trainee                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Superfund Centre                                          | Higher Education (Duke)                  | Superfund Center Intern                                                                          |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Energy and Environment (EE)</b>                  |                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| Master of Public Policy (MPP)                       | ICF                                                       | Consulting                               | Energy Analyst                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Converge Strategies                                       | Consulting                               | Energy Resilience Fellow                                                                         |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA Federal Energy Regulatory Commission                  | Federal Government (US)                  | Energy Industry Analyst Intern                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Sanford School of Public Policy                           | Higher Education (Duke)                  | Research Assistant                                                                               |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA Summit County government, UT                          | Local Government (EDF Climate Corps)     | Climate Corps Fellow                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | NC Sustainable Energy Association                         | NGO (Stanback)                           | Stanback Energy Data Fellow                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA SELC                                                  | NGO (Stanback)                           | Energy Policy Intern                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | The Rachel Carson Council                                 | NGO (Stanback)                           | Stanback Renewable Energy Policy Fellow                                                          |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Environmental Defense Fund                                | NGO (Stanback)                           | Stanback Natural Infrastructure and climate intern                                               |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Marathon Capital LLC                                      | Private                                  | Summer Analyst                                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC                                 | Private                                  | EDF Climate Corps Fellow                                                                         |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA 8 Rivers Capital, LLC                                 | Private                                  | Business Development Intern                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Cerberus Capital Management                               | Private                                  | ESG Intern                                                                                       |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | CICC                                                      | Private                                  | ESG Intern                                                                                       |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA ARPA-E                                                | Private                                  | Technology-to-Market Summer Scholar                                                              |                                                                                                      |
| EEP, MPP                                            | NextEra Energy Resources                                  | Private                                  | Market Analysis Intern                                                                           |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | East Point Energy                                         | Private                                  | Power Market Analyst Summer Associate                                                            |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA MetOx Technologies                                    | Private                                  | Summer Strategy Associate                                                                        |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Knorr Bremse, New York Air Brake                          | Private                                  | Energy Intern                                                                                    |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | CICC Global Institute                                     | Private                                  | Research Assistant                                                                               |                                                                                                      |
| MBA                                                 | Starbucks                                                 | Private                                  | Clean Energy Fellow                                                                              |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Delorean Power                                            | Private                                  | Energy Storage Development Intern                                                                |                                                                                                      |
| S&P Global                                          | Private (EDF Climate Corps)                               | Corporate Responsibility Intern          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP)</b>     |                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP)         | Arcadis                                                   | Consulting                               | Resilience Intern                                                                                |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | National Renewable Energy Laboratory                      | Federal Government (US)                  | Distribution Utility Resilience Intern                                                           |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | EPA                                                       | Federal Government (US)                  | Intern with Air Economics Group                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Data-Driven EnviroLab, UNC-Chapel Hill                    | Higher Education (non-Duke)              | Research Assistant                                                                               |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Zealandia                                                 | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Visiting Researcher                                                                              |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Environmental Defense Fund                                | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | 2023 Climate Corps Fellow                                                                        |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MF Public Lands Policy Group of Colorado State University | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Research Associate                                                                               |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA National Parks Conservation Association               | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Duke Biodiversity Fellow                                                                         |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Juris Doctorate (JD)                                      | Southern Environmental Law Center        | NGO (Stanback)                                                                                   | Southeast Regional Environmental Justice Statutory, Policy & Regulatory Research Stanback Fellowship |
|                                                     |                                                           | Park Institute of America                | NGO (Stanback)                                                                                   | Stanback Conservation Research Fellow                                                                |
|                                                     |                                                           | Duke Environmental Law and Policy Clinic | NGO (Stanback)                                                                                   | Science and Policy Fellow                                                                            |
|                                                     |                                                           | NRDC                                     | NGO (Stanback)                                                                                   | Stanback Clean Air Legal Fellow                                                                      |
| Three Rivers Land Trust                             |                                                           | NGO (Stanback)                           | Habitat Management Intern                                                                        |                                                                                                      |
| RMI                                                 | NGO (Stanback)                                            | India Program Intern                     |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| MCRP                                                | Southern Environmental Law Center                         | NGO (Stanback)                           | Southeast Regional Environmental Justice, Statutory Policy, and Regulatory Research Fellowship   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | League of Conservation Voters                             | NGO (Stanback)                           | Stanback Government Affairs Fellow                                                               |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Apex Clean Energy                                         | Private                                  | Government Affairs Summer Associate                                                              |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MBA Intl. Farming                                         | Private                                  | Summer Investment Associate                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Propeller Ventures                                        | Private                                  | Summer Associate                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |
| CICC                                                | Private                                                   | ESG Investing Analyst                    |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| World Bank Group                                    | Quasi Government Org - International                      | Changing wealth of Nations               |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Ecosystem Science and Conservation (ESC)</b>     |                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| MBA                                                 | NASA                                                      | Federal Government (US)                  | DEVELOP Internship Program                                                                       |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | US Department of Transportation                           | Federal Government (US)                  | Environmental Protection Specialist                                                              |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Gabon Parks Network                                       | Higher Education (Duke)                  | Pathogens to Pachyderms                                                                          |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Nicholas Institute                                        | Higher Education (Duke)                  | Research Intern                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Duke University/ANPN/IRET                                 | Higher Education (Duke)                  | Bass Connections - Forest Innovations in Wildlife Technology                                     |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Pennsylvania State University Arboretum                   | Higher Education (non-Duke)              | Plant Records Intern                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | City of Dallas                                            | Local Government (EDF Climate Corps)     | EDF Climate Corps Fellow                                                                         |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Tar River Land Conservancy                                | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Land Stewardship Intern                                                                          |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | The Hive Fund for Climate & Gender Justice                | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Communications Consultant                                                                        |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | MCRP                                                      | Conservation Trust for North Carolina    | NGO (Stanback)                                                                                   | Conservation and Community Resilience GIS Stanback Fellow                                            |
| The Nature Conservancy                              |                                                           | NGO (Stanback)                           | Stanback Coastal Fellow                                                                          |                                                                                                      |
| Apex Clean Energy                                   |                                                           | Private                                  | Technology GIS Summer Associate                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| MBA Grove Climate Group                             |                                                           | Private                                  | Summer Associate                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Water Resources Management (WRM)</b>             |                                                           |                                          |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| Master of Engineering Management (MEgM)             | Civil Consultants                                         | Consulting                               | Engineering Technician Intern                                                                    |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | City of Raleigh Stormwater                                | Local Government                         | Water Quality Intern                                                                             |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection                     | Local Government                         | Environmental Education Intern                                                                   |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission     | NGO (non-Stanback)                       | Natural Resources Intern II                                                                      |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | NRDC                                                      | NGO (Stanback)                           | Stanback Clean Water Policy Fellow                                                               |                                                                                                      |
|                                                     | Environmental Working Group                               | NGO (Stanback)                           | Investigations team intern                                                                       |                                                                                                      |

\*dual degree or secondary concentration noted if applicable