

**CERSA Internship Program**  
**Abstract / Intern Project Description**  
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**How does regulation of crop protection products really work?**

A Practitioner's Perception of the Pivotal Principles, Practices, and Policies

Participants in this internship will have direct interaction with a mentor that has over thirty-five years of experience in major research and development-based crop protection companies, with most of this experience coming from roles involving regulation of crop protection products in the United States (US), North America, European Union (EU), or working in a global role. Specific experiences such as the building of comprehensive regulatory data packages for over eleven new crop protection active ingredients and numerous new product uses including the use of herbicides on genetically modified crops containing herbicide-tolerant traits, building the regulatory paradigm for innovative crop protection modes of action such as RNA interference, serving as crop protection division liaison with the EU Commission, participating in global organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Working Party on Pesticides and the Codex Commission on Pesticide Residues (CCPR), leading industry association projects focused on the improvement regulatory practices and risk assessment approaches, leading the creation of three industry wide task forces (the most recent focusing on building the regulatory framework for UAV/drone-based pesticide application), and the training / mentoring of numerous regulatory managers will form the foundation of this internship.

Participants in this internship will focus on topics such as:

- the underlying principles of written regulations and how these principles impact regulators as they work to implement these written regulatory requirements,
- gain an understanding of efforts working toward global regulatory harmonization and why such efforts are critically important, despite the implicit limits often placed on implementation of 'full' harmonization,
- garner a better appreciation of the mixture of science and politics that are always in play during development and implementation of regulations, regulatory practices, and regulatory policies,
- increase their knowledge of the key regulations, regulatory practices & risk assessment approaches, and regulatory policies that impact crop protection use, the modernization and improved sustainability of agriculture, and global trade of food and feed, and
- develop an understanding of the knowledge, skill set, and behaviors that are needed to build a successful career working in the crop protection regulatory field.

Depending on the interest and educational level of the intern, opportunities such as the following may be considered:

- focus on a specific area of regulation (e.g., human health or environmental risk assessment), country or region (e.g., United States, EU), or international level (e.g., OECD, CCPR), and / or
- increase knowledge and their network by opening a facilitated dialogue with other practitioners with experience in the crop protection regulatory space (e.g., government regulators, non-governmental organizations, consultant firms, or crop protection companies).

At the end of the internship, participants will have a greater understanding of the crop protection regulatory system, how regulation of crop protection product really works in practice, and be better informed on what a potential career working in crop protection regulation could become.