



**Social Justice Division**  
**Environmental Protection Bureau—Buffalo**  
**Student Assistant for Science/Policy**  
**Reference No. EPB/SCI\_BUF\_PUGS\_SPRING\_2026**

**Spring Paid, Part-Time Placement for Graduate/Undergraduate Students | Application Deadline is January 30, 2026\***

The Office of the New York State Attorney General's (OAG) [Environmental Protection Bureau](#) (EPB) in Buffalo is seeking applications from graduate and undergraduate students for a paid science/policy placement during the 2026 Spring Program. EPB is responsible for enforcing state and federal environmental laws and has the power to file lawsuits on behalf of the state of New York to protect the public health and environment. The bureau enforces environmental standards and defends state agencies when their regulatory efforts are challenged in court. In addition, the bureau's attorneys and technical staff investigate and respond to citizen complaints, file lawsuits for public nuisance conditions, prosecute environmental crimes, enforce solid waste laws, and prepare reports and brochures on environmental issues.

Students will assist the scientific and policy staff in exploring difficult and groundbreaking environmental and legal issues. Responsibilities include researching issues using the internet; briefing staff on technical issues and keeping them updated on the most recent developments; drafting reports and fact sheets; procuring technical information and undertaking scientific and evidentiary review and analyses; preparing presentations using Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint; and assisting staff in preparing for negotiations with violators of environmental laws. Candidates with Relativity or GIS skills are especially encouraged to apply.

In addition, students may gain experience working with federal, state, and local government agency staff, non-profit environmental organizations, and experts. In the past, students have worked on issues regarding lead exposure and public health, sustainability and energy related matters, drinking water quality, plastic pollution, and many others. Students work closely with the Chief Scientist, the Policy Analyst, and other professional staff in the office who will provide them with mentoring, guidance, and advice to support their learning and professional development. The key qualities we look for include a strong background in science, intellectual curiosity, strong initiative, effective writing and communication, and an interest in the quality of our environment.

**Spring Program Details**

- **The format of this placement is hybrid or remote.**
  - **Hybrid Placements:** Students report to their designated workstation two or three (2-3) days per week. On the days students work remotely, they need a reliable computer, a secure internet connection, a phone, and a sufficiently quiet and private workspace to telework.
  - **Remote Placements:** Students telecommute for the duration of their placements. On the days students work remotely, they need a reliable computer, a secure internet connection, a phone, and a sufficiently quiet and private workspace to telework. *Please be advised, students hired for remote, paid placements must be available to complete their payroll onboarding paperwork in-person at OAG's offices in Albany or New York City or at one of the [13 regional office locations](#).*
- **At the time students receive and accept a paid placement offer, they must provide written documentation demonstrating they are full-time students in good academic standing as defined by their schools. Applications from students who are starting college/university during the 2025-26 academic year will not be considered.**
- The student hired for this placement will be hired as a student assistant and work part-time for the spring semester (15 hours/week for 12 weeks for a total of 180 paid hours). Graduate students are paid the hourly rate of \$19.38 and undergraduate students are paid the hourly rate of \$16.39.
- \*Applications are accepted online until **January 30, 2026**, and paid placement offers are made on a rolling basis.
- Students who are hired for the spring program may begin their placements on January 21, 2026, or after.

- United States (U.S.) citizenship and New York state residency are not required, but applicants must be eligible to be employed in the U.S.

*Candidates from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.  
The OAG is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to workplace diversity.*

## How to Apply

The following section provides detailed information about the application process and application requirements. Please review the complete list of instructions prior to preparing and submitting your application materials online.

- Applications for spring placements must be submitted online. To apply, please click the following link:

### [EPB/SCI BUF PUGS SPRING 2026](#)

- Applications are submitted separately for each bureau/regional office, and an applicant's candidacy for each application is determined separately by each bureau/regional office.
- \*Applications are accepted online until **January 30, 2026**, and placement offers are made on a rolling basis.
- **The following five (5) documents must be submitted with your application:**

*Your documents should reflect your own thoughts/work product in text that was written by you. Do not use artificial intelligence (AI) to generate application documents. Once submitted, you will not be able to access or edit your application. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to have someone review/proofread your documents ahead of submitting your application online.*

#### 1. Cover Letter

- You may choose to address your letter to the Legal Recruitment Unit.
- Indicate why you are interested in a placement with OAG and what makes you a strong candidate.
- You may wish to include information about what life experiences you will bring to the position that will enhance OAG's ability to better serve the diverse population of this state.
- Please indicate your format preference: hybrid or remote.

#### 2. Resume

- Ensure your resume is complete and current prior to submitting your application.

#### 3. Reference List

- Submit a list of three (3) professional references (i.e., supervisor or professor).
- For each reference, indicate the nature and duration of your relationship.
- Include contact information and email addresses for each reference.
- Please note that your references will not be contacted until after you interview for the placement.

#### 4. Writing Sample

- Submit a paper completed for school or a writing sample that was prepared for a job or during an internship/externship.
- Submit a sample that demonstrates your ability to analyze and organize information into an effective document.
- We recommend submitting a sample that is 3-6 pages in length.
- If needed, please include a cover page providing the reviewer with any relevant background information or context.

#### 5. Course List

- In lieu of a transcript, please provide a list of science courses, engineering courses, and any other courses relevant to your application that you have successfully completed since beginning college or university.
- If you are currently pursuing a graduate degree, this list should include courses that you have successfully completed for both your undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- Please be advised this information will be used to assess whether you have the necessary science and other prerequisites for this placement.

- **Failure to submit a complete application will delay the consideration of your candidacy.**

- If a bureau wishes to schedule an interview, they will contact you directly to arrange this meeting.

**If you have questions about a placement with OAG, the application process, or need assistance with submitting your application, please contact Legal Recruitment via email at [recruitment@ag.ny.gov](mailto:recruitment@ag.ny.gov).**