What’s Your idea? How do you want to see the world change? Do you care about living sustainably? Do you want to engage with the community and earn credit via Project-Based Learning? Then IDEASS internships are for you!

CRSN 152-03

IDEASS is a 3 quarter long (fall 2023, winter 2024, and spring 2024) professional education internship for students to develop and apply their understanding of complex solutions to present day issues at the nexus of environment + society. Students earn 2 credits per quarter and can earn more by request (No prerequisites needed).

Rainwater Harvesting and Tank 2 Table designs will be a focus for the 2023-2024 school year. The IDEASS Tank-to-Table Project (optimizing rainwater harvesting to produce food) will educate and engage community members interested in installing rain barrels at residential sites in Santa Cruz County. We will study how much food can be grown without conventional irrigation. Together we will work to increase water resiliency and to advocate for policy changes. Strategies for water conservation in home gardens and greenhouses, include applied mycology, permaculture and innovations in composting. Learn about rainwater harvesting, growing food, permaculture, community engagement, and much more!

A hallmark of the IDEASS program is our commitment to student agency and ownership. Rather than working “for” a PI, undergraduates in the IDEASS program are positioned to take initiative and leadership in project development, setting priorities and goals. Projects partner students with paid/volunteer professionals including architects, city staff and engineers who lend their expertise. Ideal candidates for this internship program will be self-motivated: while working closely, with UCSC faculty and professional community mentors on one or more projects. Students who show aptitude and commitment will be considered for paid positions in Summer 2024.