Los Angeles Section
Orange County Section

SUMMER OBSERVERSHIP PROGRAM

Participating Student Guide

https://losangeles.ies.org/summer-observership-program/



INTRODUCTION

The Illuminating Engineering Society of Los Angeles and Orange County (IES QC/LA) is sponsoring a six week Summer Observership Program open to lighting, architecture interior design, or electrical engineering students enrolled at accredited colleges or universities in the Los Angeles or Orange County metropolitan area. Candidates will be selected based on a combination of advisor recommendations, application and in-person interview with members of the IES LA and OC Boards.

OBJECTIVE

The IES LA/OC Observership Program provides candidates with an opportunity to spend time observing and participating in real world aspects of the professional lighting construction industry. IES Member companies participate in and support the observer through a 6 weeklong residency, inviting each observer to experience a week or two weeks in the life of their company; presenting a roadmap of the overall lighting construction industry.

This year, in a special arrangement with the nonprofit LightforLA, students will spend time throughout the six-week program exploring lighting design as a tool for community resilience and equitable recovery. Through hands-on engagement with nonprofit initiatives, advocacy efforts, and real-world design access work, participants will experience an expanded view of the profession - one that extends beyond traditional market practice to serve communities where access to quality lighting has historically been limited

STUDENT COMMITMENT

Candidates will work with the daily schedules set forth by the host companies' program coordinator and observe all aspects of each of these components.

Further, upon the completion of the Observership program, the student will provide a short Program Summary describing the features and benefits of each of the components in relation to their career objectives.

INDUSTRY COMPONENTS

By spending time observing the day-to-day operations of multiple industry components, each student will achieve a broad understanding of the lighting industry as a whole, guiding their career goals.

1. **Lighting Consulting and Design**
2. **Electrical Engineering**
3. **Lighting Manufacturing**
4. **Lighting Sales Agency (Manu. Rep)**
5. **Lighting Equipment Distribution**

OBSERVERSHIP CONTACTS

IES ORANGE COUNTY PROGRAM CHAIRS
Richard Lund rlund@kirlinlighting.com

IES LOS ANGELES PROGRAM CHAIR
Holly Ratafia
hratafia@hrlightingdesign.com
ieslainternshipchair@gmail.com

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FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Participants will be financially compensated for their participation in the program to total $3,600. Compensation will be distributed every two weeks with final payment upon the Boards receipt of a completed Program Summary.

TIMELINE

April 24, 2026: Applications Due
May 8, 2026: Candidate Interviews
May 11, 2026: Final Candidate Selection
July 13 - August 28, 2026: Observership Program

Past LA/OC County Participating companies:

Visual Terrain
KGM Architectural Lighting
Lighting Design Alliance
Horton Lees Brogden Lighting Design
ALD Lighting
AlfaTech
Creative Engineering Group
MPA
SCI
Kinetic Lighting
Elite Lighting U.S.A.
All-Phase Electric Supply
PLP SOCAL
Prudential
Cerno
Liton
ANP
Apparatus Los Angeles
Neptune Glassworks
LPA Design Studios
Walters Electric
Midwest
P2S Engineering
Performance OC
Salas O'brien

APPLICATIONS

All applications must be received by the Observership Committee by April 18th to be determined. Please see all application instructions and documents below. Submit completed Application Form along with other related documents to:

rlund@kirlinlighting.com
AND
hratafia@hrlightingdesign.com

Application deadline is April 24th. Final student Observer selections will be made no later than May 8, following in-person interviews to be conducted the week prior.

If you have any questions, please reach out to ieslainternshipchair@gmail.com.