What is the WEST Program about?
The WEST program is a one-month research experience during the summer for undergraduates and graduate students at Arizona State University. We seek to recruit six (6) to ten (10) participants for each summer. The activities include a two-week field experience in Sonora, Mexico.

The objectives of the WEST program are to: (1) train students on field measurements useful for water resources management; (2) expose students to local water resources infrastructure and decision makers; and (3) provide cultural and scientific exchanges with Mexican faculty and students.

The field experience is focused on the Sonora River basin as it serves as water supply to the growing capital city of Hermosillo, where water demands range from industrial and residential to agricultural. We will visit existing reservoirs, water supply facilities and a new modernization program, the Sonora SI, that is transferring water from agricultural to urban users. The Sonora SI plan is a contentious sociopolitical and economic issue that provides a real-word case study on water sustainability.

Where will the WEST field activities be?
The WEST program will focus on water infrastructure and water supply in and around Hermosillo, Sonora, the capital city. We will be collaborating with the Universidad de Sonora (in Hermosillo) and the Instituto Tecnologico de Sonora (in Ciudad Obregon). Facilities at the Universidad de Sonora will used for meetings and field visits to water infrastructure will depart from Hermosillo. Hotel and transportation in Hermosillo will be provided.

The field instrumentation and sampling program will focus on the Sonora, San Miguel and Zanjon River basins (all part of the larger Sonora River). Activities will be staged from housing in a small town of Rayon, Sonora. Field work will include instrument deployment, sampling at existing sites and data acquisition related to water supply.

When will the activities be carried out?
Participating students will commit to a one-month effort, from July 16 to August 14, 2012. A stipend will be provided at the beginning of the field effort, tentatively planned from July 30 to August 10. To participate, a commitment over the entire period is required. Pre and post-field activities will be conducted on the ASU Tempe campus.

What background and interests are required?
We seek students at the undergraduate (junior or senior) or early graduate careers that have interests in water resources, hydrology, sustainability, environmental science, geological or ecological sciences, or similar field. Interest in water issues in society and in field activities is important.