



NIF Internships

Frequently Asked Questions

Wallops Point of Contact: Patricia Benner
Patricia.a.benner@nasa.gov 443-880-3664

1. WHERE DO I APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP?

You can apply at: <https://www.intern.nasa.gov>

2. WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS?

For more information on fellowships and scholarships visit:
<https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/fellowship-programs>

3. HOW MUCH WILL I BE PAID?

Fall/Spring Internship – 16 Weeks

Undergraduates: \$11,680

Graduates: \$14,400

Summer Internship – 10 Weeks

Undergraduates: \$7,300

Graduates: \$9,000

4. WHAT ARE THE APPLICANT CRITERIA?

- GPA – 3.0 at the time of application
- Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Will be required to show proof of US citizenship if selected for an internship.
- Accepted to or enrolled full-time in an accredited U.S. college or university.

- 16 years of age or older by the date that the internship begins.
- Letter of recommendation to be submitted on your application to intern.nasa.gov.

5. I AM ABOUT TO GRADUATE COLLEGE; CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes, you can be considered for an internship for one session within six months of graduation. However, you will be considered as an undergraduate intern.

6. HOW MANY NASA INTERNSHIPS MAY I PARTICIPATE IN?

An intern may apply and obtain up to three consecutive full-time internships or six part-time internships as long as she/he meets the eligibility requirements. However, the internship selection process is very competitive and interns are never guaranteed an internship based on a prior NASA internship. After taking a session off after up to three consecutive full-time or six consecutive part-time internship sessions, an intern is eligible for consideration for other internship opportunities.

7. WILL THIS INTERNSHIP LEAD TO AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE PATHWAYS PROGRAM?

NASA Internships are opportunities available for one single session and are short-term opportunities designed to advance projects to the next level and provide valuable work experience to the student. Pathways is separate from NIFS. Pathways information is available at <https://nasajobs.nasa.gov/studentopps/default.htm>

8. IS HOUSING PROVIDED FOR INTERNS?

Interns must provide for their own housing and relocation expenses. Upon acceptance, interns may be forwarded a Housing Guide that may be helpful in identifying housing options in the area.

9. WHAT KIND OF MAJORS DOES NASA LOOK FOR?

Primarily we look for STEM Majors (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Additionally, some projects will call for Communications, Public Affairs, Journalism, Graphics, Business and Finance.

10. WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS DOES NASA HAVE?

Project needs change each session according to the organization's needs. Some skills that NASA routinely needs are (list is not exhaustive).

- Programming: C++, JAVA, HTML
- CAD, PRO-E, Matlab, 3D Modeling

- Networking
- Machine Shop, fabricating, design, prototyping
- 3D printing
- Social Media
- Technical Writing
- Database Administration
- Heliophysics
- Earth Science
- Solar System
- Astrophysics

11. DO I HAVE TO APPLY TO A SPECIFIC PROJECT?

No, you do not have to apply to a specific project. By submitting your application, you are in the general applicant pool. However, the visibility (and selection odds) of your application is increased by applying to a specific project. We look at candidates that have applied to a specific project before looking in the larger, general applicant pool. Be sure if you apply to a specific project, you have the skills they are asking for.

You can apply to 15 projects per session.

12. HOW CAN I MAKE MY APPLICATION STAND OUT?

We are not able to review every application in the general applicant pool. Think “filters,” using key words may boost the chances of your application being viewed by a mentor. Remember the projects are usually specific. If you are a mechanical engineering major, do not just say you have lab experience. Specify your experience with equipment, testing and analyses that you performed in a lab.

Important sections of your application are:

- Computer Skills – Be thorough, as this is what filters will catch. Avoid exhaustive paragraphs.
- Special Skills – List any skill you are proficient in that you feel may be helpful (social media, foreign languages, machine shop, graphic artist, acoustical analysis, heat transfer, gas spectroscopy, chromatography, anthropometry, technical writing, photography, etc.). List anything that will separate you from other candidates. Use key words.
- How your interests fit with a NASA opportunity – State how you can advance this project to the next level. What is it about you that distinguishes your skills from others that inspires NASA to select you? Be concise. Describe your experiences and how your skill set will benefit NASA now and in the future.

13. IF I AM PURSUING MY MASTER'S OR DOCTORATE DEGREE, MAY I STILL APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP?

Yes, so long as you meet the eligibility requirements you can apply for an internship opportunity.

14. HOW WILL FULL-TIME FALL/SPRING INTERNSHIP SESSIONS AFFECT MY FULL-TIME SCHOOL SCHEDULE?

Students are responsible for finding a sensible solution to balance the needs of their internship opportunities and academic plans after receiving an offer to join the internship program at NASA. It is common for students to enroll in a lighter school load during their internship session, take online classes through their institution, or defer for one semester in order to participate. The student should inform their mentor of any academic plans during their internship at NASA.

15. WHAT IS THE INTERVIEW PROCESS LIKE?

While interviews are not a required component of the internship application and review process, some NASA centers may choose to conduct face-to-face or phone interviews. In this case, you will be contacted directly by the mentor via email or phone. There is no timeline for this action.

Be prepared for phone contact from NASA. If you are using a home phone accessible by other family members, let them know you have applied to the NASA internship program. Be prepared to explain why you are the best candidate to fill the opportunity by knowing how your unique skills align with the project.

16. DO I NEED PRIOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE TO GET AN INTERNSHIP WITH NASA?

No, not necessarily. All applicants are evaluated on merit, skills and the relevant experience to the specific opportunities. Answering the essay questions thoroughly is very important, as comprehensive responses enable the mentors and internship program coordinators to differentiate applicants whose passion and skill suit the opportunity best.

17. DO I NEED A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION?

Yes, applicants must submit at least one letter of recommendation however, 2-3 letters are common. Your letter(s) of recommendation can weigh a great amount in the final decision. Assure that your recommender is someone who can speak highly of your skills, work ethic and leadership.

18. I AM AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT, WHAT OPPORTUNITIES AT NASA ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

You can search for opportunities here:

<https://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/descriptions/international-internships-for-students.html>

19. HOW DO I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION IS BEING CONSIDERED, I HAVE APPLIED BUT HAVE NOT HEARD BACK?

There is no formal notification process in place to alert students of their application status. However, you may check the status of your application at intern.nasa.gov. If you are selected to be part of the Internship Program, you will be contacted with an offer letter from the Program Manager at your designated NASA center. There is no concrete timeline for this process.

20. HOW LONG AFTER YOU SUBMIT AN APPLICATION DOES IT TAKE TO HEAR IF YOU RECEIVED THE INTERNSHIP?

This will vary greatly by the center, the session and the internship project. Submit your applications as soon as possible, it is common for applications to be reviewed and sometimes, for selections to be made even before the application deadline. Typically, students will hear by one month prior to the start of the internship session if they are selected to participate in an internship.

21. I HAVE A SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT THE NASA INTERNSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM AT GODDARD, WHO CAN I ASK?

You can send an email to: gsfc-education@mail.nasa.gov We will respond within 48 hours.

22. I AM NOT SURE HOW TO NAVIGATE THE APPLICATION SYSTEM. IS THERE A TUTORIAL?

Yes! We have a video that can walk you through the new system. You can view the tutorial on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgFPngfSz10>



NASA'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

NASA's internship programs provide training, mentoring, and career development opportunities while working with the best science, engineering, financial, information technology and business minds in the world.



ARE YOU READY
TO EXPLORE
THE EXTRAORDINARY?

intern.nasa.gov

WHAT ARE NASA INTERNSHIPS?

NASA internships provide unique NASA-related experiences for high school, undergraduate, graduate students, and educators. They engage students with real-world experiences while contributing to the operation of a NASA facility and the advancement of NASA's missions. Some internships pay students a weekly stipend and some a salary, but it varies depending on the center, funding organization and internship program.



Pathways Internship Program

The Pathway Program provides current students and recent graduates with paid work experience and a dynamic development opportunity at the beginning of their careers. Pathways provides three programs:

- NASA Pathways Intern Employment Program
- NASA Pathways Recent Graduates Program
- NASA Pathways Presidential Management Fellows Program

Pathways internships are listed on www.usajobs.gov. This program offers the chance for permanent NASA employment.

NASA Internships Program

NASA Internships provide students with hands-on, project based experiences, both stipend-paid and volunteer, that directly relate to students' academic majors. Interns work on mentor-directed tasks designed to advance projects to the next level. Internship opportunities are available for:

- High School Students
- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Educators

Visit intern.nasa.gov for more information on other NASA Internships. These internships are not listed on USAJOBS.

WHY APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP AT NASA?

As a NASA intern, you'll join a community of diverse professionals who are united by a common purpose: to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research. Regardless of your career goals, a NASA internship will give you the kind of rewarding experience that makes a brilliant start for career advancement.

NASA leads the world in space exploration and NASA internships are an important part of our commitment to ensuring that the next generation will be ready for the challenges ahead. And while we're known for our achievements in science and engineering, we're just as proud of our achievements in the workplace. NASA is consistently named the "Best Place to Work in the Federal Government" by the Partnership for Public Service.

NASA's Most Frequently Hired Positions:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Computer Engineering / Science
- Physical Science
- Space Science
- Public Affairs
- Business Administration
- Accounting
- Finance
- Human Resources
- Management
- Information Technology



NASA Internships Offer:

- Educational advancement
- Great practical experience – regardless of career path
- Life-changing opportunities
- An internship with credibility

We may have exactly what you are searching for!

NASA'S INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS: NAVIGATE YOUR FUTURE

At NASA, we explore the infinite every day and our work is more than just a profession—it's a lifelong pursuit and a passion. NASA offers several opportunities for students to undertake meaningful and challenging projects that truly make an impact on humanity.

NASA internships are available for students in a variety of disciplines – not just science, technology, engineering and math. We offer two different internship programs—the NASA Internship Program and the Pathways Internship Program, both with opportunities at locations across the United States. Learn more here: <https://www.nasa.gov/careers>

"After interning here I know I can accomplish anything."

- Sarah

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	NASA Internship Program	Pathways Internship Program
Minimum GPA on a 4.0 grade scale*	3.0	2.9
Eligible academic levels are:		
High school**	X	X
Undergraduate	X	X***
Graduate	X	X
Educators	X	
US citizen****	X	X
* Must be enrolled Full-time in high school or a degree-granting program at an accredited U.S. community college or four-year university		
**High school students must be age 16 or above		
***College students must typically have completed at least 30 semester hours		
****US Citizen by birth or naturalization		



Be sure to visit us at:

www.nasa.gov/careers/students-and-recent-graduates

intern.nasa.gov/

For more about our specific locations, visit: www.nasa.gov/about/sites/

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