



## NASA Internships FAQ

### **I'm not an engineering student. Can I still get an intern position at NASA?**

Yes, NASA has opportunities for students who are not majoring in engineering. NASA needs employees with a wide variety of knowledge and skills. At NASA, our engineers, mathematicians, accountants, writers, IT specialists, project managers, program analysts, and many other professionals work together to break barriers to achieve the seemingly impossible.

Non-engineering interns may support a variety of business and program management work, including procurement, budgeting, accounting, information technology, and security.

### **What's the NASA work environment like?**

At NASA, our work is more than just a profession—it's a lifelong pursuit, a passion—and a chance to change the history of humanity. We are a community of more than 18,000 professionals who come from diverse backgrounds, but are united by a common purpose: to pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery and aeronautics research. We are curious, share a passion for exploration and come together as one to solve complex issues. At NASA innovation is a staple, teamwork is a must and everyone's opinion counts.

As a NASA intern, you'll be surrounded by world-class experts and other students who work together. In addition to meaningful assignments, you may have the opportunity to participate in activities such as:

- Tours and lectures to meet other NASA employees
- Community and educational outreach
- Social activities planned by students outside of the work environment.

### **Is the work meaningful and challenging?**

At NASA, you'll have an opportunity to work on unique projects that truly make an impact on humanity. We are continually embarking on a range of missions to better understand our planet, the solar system and beyond. And interns are given meaningful and challenging work assignments that contribute to that overall mission.

### **Do I get paid as an intern?**

Internship: The majority of interns received a stipend award, but there are some volunteer opportunities noted in project descriptions. Stipends are based on student academic level and session length.

Pathways: Yes. The starting pay for Pathways Interns varies depending on the number of academic hours you have completed toward your degree, where the position is located, and the grade level(s) of the position(s) being filled. Please see the chart below. Pathways Interns are promoted on the basis of academic hours completed and performance ratings. In addition to pay and valuable work experience, you may receive the same benefits as a permanent employee. This includes health, life, dental and vision insurance, retirement plan, paid leave, holidays and more.

### **Where and when are intern opportunities announced?**

Internship: NASA internship and fellowship opportunities from NASA centers around the country are all accessible at <https://intern.nasa.gov/>. NASA intern projects are available in three sessions. Interns are selected and placed in projects for fall, spring and summer sessions at any NASA location. Students complete one application that can be viewed by mentors agency wide. Your application can be submitted and updated at any time. Be sure to check <https://intern.nasa.gov/> for up-to-date application deadlines. The application deadline for summer 2021 is March 5, 2021 and the deadline for fall 2021 is July 9, 2021.

Pathways: NASA is required to announce Pathways Intern opportunities on [www.USAJOBS.gov](http://www.USAJOBS.gov). The majority of opportunities are announced in the fall, around September or October, for appointments that begin in January and again around February and March for appointments that begin in May. Exact dates depend on the center and demand. For the latest Pathways Intern openings, check USAJOBS. You can even search for jobs when you're not online by using the "Saved search" function. Saved searches will automatically search for jobs based on your search criteria and notify you when new jobs are available.



## NASA Internships FAQ (continued)

### How long does the intern appointment last?

Internship: There are three internship sessions: fall, spring, and summer. The fall internship session starts in late August or early September and ends in mid-December. The fall session is 16 weeks. The spring internship session starts in mid-January and ends in early-May. The spring internship session is also 16 weeks. The summer internship session starts in late May or early June and ends in August. The summer session is 10 weeks. Some internship experiences also offer the opportunity for an extension.

Pathways: Intern appointments may be for indefinite periods without established ending dates or appointments of up to one year.

### Where will I live as an intern? Will I need a car?

Internship: Interns are responsible for making their own housing arrangements. This includes locating their own housing options and paying for their housing. Centers may be able to offer minimal assistance by providing a list of local available housing and/or establishing a private social media group for interns to utilize for relocation planning purposes. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the summer 2021 internship session will be completed virtually and interns will work from home.

Pathways: While NASA does not provide housing, we will provide you sufficient time and options to locate housing. Interns will have the opportunity to work at one of NASA's many locations around the country, called centers. Many centers will provide resources, such as online forums, where you can connect with other employees to find affordable housing options in the area.

Your center location and housing options will determine if you need a car. At most centers, unless you find housing within walking distance, you will most likely need a car. However, there are ample public transportation options at some centers.

### What are the eligibility requirements to be an intern?

Internship:

- U.S. Citizen
- Cumulative 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale)
- Full-time students (high school through graduate)
- At least 16 years of age at the time of application (no exceptions)
- Undergraduate and graduate students must be enrolled full-time in a degree-granting program at an accredited college or university.
- Educators are also eligible to apply

Pathways:

- U.S. Citizen
- Successfully completed at least 30 semester hours of undergraduate education
- Currently enrolled in (or accepted for enrollment to) an accredited college or university on at least a half time basis:
- Engineering programs: <http://www.abet.org/>
- All programs: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>
- Currently have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.9 or higher (on a 4.0 scale)
- Be able to complete at least 640 hours of Pathways work experience prior to completing your degree requirements
- Have at least one academic year remaining in your degree program.
- \*Center requirements may vary, please read each vacancy for specific Center details.

### Will I work while I'm in school?

Some centers require students to alternate semesters between work and school, while others do not. Be sure to check the position description for more information.



## **NASA Internships FAQ (continued)**

### **What kind of projects are available?**

Available projects and positions will vary by NASA center and session. Once you complete an application, you will be able to view the available projects for the specified session. In the application system you can use filters to locate specific projects that meet your desired geographic location and skill set.

### **Do I have to apply to a specific project?**

Internship: You do not have to apply to a specific project; however, doing so increases your chances of a mentor reviewing your application.

Pathways: You will apply to a specific Pathways opportunity on the USAJOBS website.

### **What happens when I complete my degree?**

A Pathways intern may be converted to a permanent position (or, in some circumstances, to a term position lasting 1-6 years) within 120 days of successful completion of their degree requirements. To be eligible for conversion, an intern must:

- Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.9 on a 4.0 scale
- Complete at least 640 hours of work experience in the Pathways Intern Program before completing degree requirements
- Successfully complete all required training and development assignments
- Meet the qualification requirements for the position to which the intern will be converted
- Receive a favorable recommendation for conversion from their supervisor
- Meet all other requirements for the position (e.g., drug testing, security clearance, etc.)