

Federal Internships

May 01, 2019

Considering an Internship?

▶ Possible Benefits:

- ▶ Makes you more competitive for non-academic careers
- ▶ Networking
- ▶ High pay
- ▶ Get a security clearance
- ▶ Coauthor publications and presentations
- ▶ The more internship experience, the higher your starting salary will be for federal jobs

Considering an Internship?

▶ **Realities to Consider:**

- ▶ Probably won't be working under your "specialty area"
- ▶ Possibly won't even be working in an experimental lab (e.g., HR, secondary data analysis)
- ▶ Might need to pass a security clearance
- ▶ Your graduate work does not stop

Selected Programs:



▶ Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP)

- ▶ \$11,000 for 10-week summer internship
- ▶ 41 research labs all over the US
- ▶ Deadline usually October/November of each year

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (Patrick Air Force Base, FL):

Research areas: Hazing, bullying, LGBT issues, diversity management, sexual harassment, culture, etc.

Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (Orlando, FL):

Research areas: Cross-cultural competence, neurocognitive assessment, performance measurement, natural language processing, etc.

Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey, CA):

Research areas: Defense analysis – terrorism, global public policy – human behavior, operations research – data analysis, human-system integration

Selected Programs:



▶ [Oak Ridge Institute for Science & Education \(ORISE\)](#)

- ▶ Varied pay for summer, fall, and spring internship programs
- ▶ Many labs all over the US
- ▶ Varied deadlines

[Applied Social Science – Health Equity Fellowship – CDC \(Cincinnati, OH\)](#)

“...interact with and learn from a multidisciplinary research team and experience firsthand the building of conceptual bridges between theory and application in the behavioral and social sciences... learn about mixed method and participatory research approaches.”

[Military Cognitive Performance Research \(Natick, MA\)](#)

“...examining the effects of non-invasive transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) on military job task performance, specifically marksmanship performance.”

Selected Programs:



▶ [Pathways Internship Program](#)

- ▶ Varied pay, lengths of appointment, locations, and deadlines
- ▶ Program is designed to convert students into government employees upon completion of their degree

▶ [Department of Justice](#)

▶ [Department of State](#)

Other Programs:

- ▶ [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#)
- ▶ [Central Intelligence Agency \(CIA\)](#)
- ▶ [Defense Intelligence Agency \(DIA\)](#)
- ▶ [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#)
- ▶ [Office of Naval Intelligence \(ONI\)](#)
- ▶ [National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency \(NGA\)](#)
- ▶ [National Security Agency \(NSA\)](#)
- ▶ [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#)
 - ▶ The DHS HS-STEM Summer Internship Program doesn't take participants every summer because of funding uncertainties. But when they do, the stipend is about \$8,000 for 10 weeks.

Applying to Internships

▶ Typical Application Materials

- ▶ Resume (consider submitting a resume, not a CV)
- ▶ Letters of recommendation
- ▶ Transcripts, GPA, GRE scores
- ▶ List of honors/awards
- ▶ List of technical skills
- ▶ Short essays
 - ▶ “Why do you want to intern with us?”
 - ▶ “How does your background fit in with our team?”
 - ▶ “What are your future goals?”

Applying to Internships

▶ Short Essay Tips

- ▶ It's okay to be a little cliché
- ▶ Talk more about your research skills than about your theoretical specialization
- ▶ Use phrases like:
 - ▶ “I want a career in public service”
 - ▶ “I want my work to directly benefit the community”
 - ▶ “I want to serve national interests”
 - ▶ “I have an interest in national security”
 - ▶ “I want to apply my skills to solve real world problems”
 - ▶ “I’ve always been drawn to service”

Helpful Resources:

- ▶ Information about security clearances:

- ▶ <http://veteranresources.taonline.com/security-clearances/>

- ▶ Federal pay charts (GS system):

- ▶ <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2019/general-schedule/>

- ▶ Tips for writing a federal resume:

- ▶ <https://www.archives.gov/files/careers/jobs/forms/resume-guide.pdf>

- ▶ Other federal grant and fellowship opportunities:

- ▶ <https://ndseg.asee.org>

- ▶ <https://smartscholarshipprod.service-now.com/smart>

- ▶ <https://www.consortium-research-fellows.org>