

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU)

It supports research and students are expected to conduct their own work and also help others – good for individual and team working skills.

They can help to build linkages with a successful research group from which grad student opportunities grow.

REU typically includes funding for salary/stipend, travel/relocation support, attendance at a conference etc.

For many an REU is among the first cataclysmic career growth/changes they experience that often cascade into many other opportunities.

Also – REUs encourage students from smaller schools and/or challenged backgrounds etc. – the program has a strong focus on levelling and seeding opportunity. NSF REU's are not generally coordinated as a central application process or pool etc.

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There are basically 2 types of REU opportunity:

1. There are a bunch of 'Site REU' programs – for these PIs propose a whole grant that is focused on REU training etc, which is administered usually by a single institution and they hire 10-15 REU's each summer to work on some kind of thematic project.

Ideas for applications:

- a. Sign up to list serves – ecology which is managed by the Ecological Society of America is a good one for ecology and environmental projects in general. Lots of site REU's advertise there
- b. Look up Site REU programs funded at NSF at <https://nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=site+reu&ActiveAwards=true>
– from here, you can look through the different programs and then use this to find individual programs.
- c. Note that applications and deadlines vary by program, but typically the deadlines are early in the spring for summer opportunities.

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2. A lot of individual projects request REU support as a supplement to an NSF grant.

Ideas for applications:

- a. Same as above
- b. A lot of the LTER (Long Term Ecological Research) programs advertise REU opportunities each summer – they often advertise through the LTER Network office <https://lternet.edu/>

An example opportunity:

The [Polaris Project](#), an undergraduate research experience led by scientists at Woodwell Climate Research Center, is [accepting applications](#) for a 2023 research expedition to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, AK.

This program is open to undergraduate students with an interest in Arctic science. Students that self-identify as BIPOC are especially encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will develop a research project in the field and present it at the 2023 American Geophysical Union. The application deadline is January 9, 2023.

NASA Internships

Go to <https://intern.nasa.gov/>

You must register to apply and to browse internship opportunities

Candidates must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Have a cumulative 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale).
- Be a full-time student (high school through graduate-level).
- Be a minimum of 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.

When do internships take place, and when are applications due?

There are three internship sessions:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Typical Start and End</u>	<u>Application Deadline</u>
Spring	16 Weeks	Mid-January - Early May	Early November
Summer	10 Weeks	Late May/Early June - August	Early March
Fall	16 Weeks	Late August/Early September - Mid-December	Early July

Are internships paid?

The majority of interns received a stipend award, which is based on academic level and session duration.

NASA Internships

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If you have completed your undergraduate degree and are enrolled in graduate school the following semester, you are also eligible for an internship during the gap period.

What types of projects are available?

Projects vary at every center each session. Once you complete an application, you will be able to view the available projects for the specified session. You can use filters to locate specific projects that meet your desired geographic location and skill sets.

Where will I live while interning? Will I need a car?

Interns are responsible for making their own housing arrangements. This includes locating their own housing options and paying for their housing. 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 centers located around the country. 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.

NASA Internships

Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) usually starts making internship offers in the February timeframe.

Not all internship opportunities are filled. Students should apply to multiple opportunities. Some internship opportunities receive few applicants, others receive 100's.

Students apply to individual research opportunities and can apply to multiple opportunities.

All opportunities are paid (10-week summer stipend was \$7,300 last summer, may be more this summer).

This year they may have on-site, off-site, and hybrid opportunities this summer, although this is still being debated.

Greenbelt usually hosts about 350 interns; there are usually about 170 interns in Code 600 during the summer.

Students who receive an offer, will receive it via the email address they provide in their application. You will have 5 days to make a decision. Applicants are NOT notified if they have not been selected for an internship.

GSFC receives 3000 or 4000 applications for summer.

NASA Internships

Be warned - The intern application system is clunky, filled with bugs, and does not save your application if it dies in mid-stream so be sure to save everything you input on a piece of paper or in another file or a screen capture so it can be easily retrieved. Be patient!