Early Careers: Internships and Other Opportunities at NASA Centers

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3rd Physics of the Cosmos (PhysCOS) Early Career Workshop
September 24, 2026

Primary Early Career Pathways to NASA

- NASA Internships
- Pathways
- NASA Postdoctoral Program

Primary Early Career Pathways to All of NASA

- NASA Internships
- Pathways

Undergraduate Or Graduate

- NASA Postdoctoral Program

Postdoctoral

NASA Internships

The Big Qs

What? Short-term, paid internships focused on project-based learning alongside a NASA mentor for STEM and non-STEM majors

Who?

- U.S. citizen
- Age 16 or older at time of application
- Undergraduate or graduate student
- 3.0 on a 4.0 GPA scale
- Enrolled part-time or full-time in a U.S. accredited certificate or degree program (can apply for the 3 sessions immediately following graduation)

The Big Qs

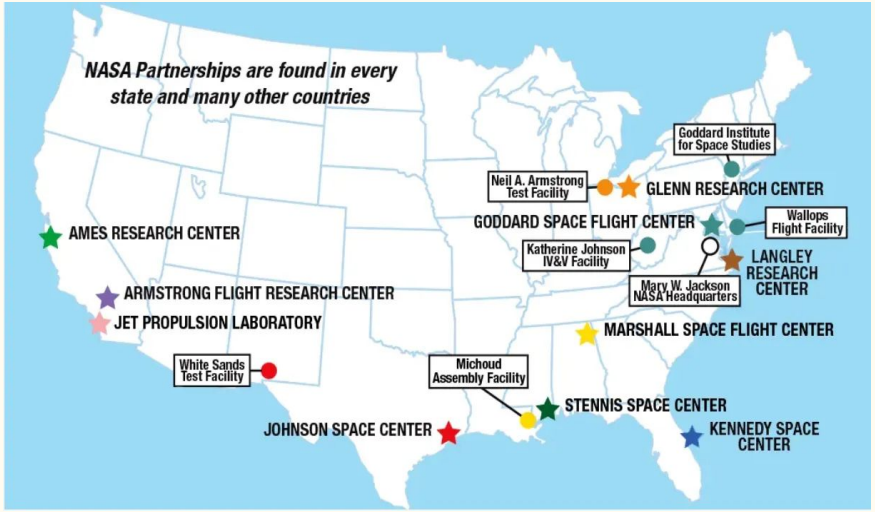
When?

- Three sessions per year either full- or part-time:
  - Spring - 15 weeks
  - Summer - 10 weeks
  - Fall - 15 weeks

Where? In person and onsite at the NASA Center noted on the project

How? Submit an application to any and all projects of interest to you via [NASA STEM Gateway]

Pro Tip! Check Gateway often as new projects are posted every day!



The Big Qs

Application and Internship Deadlines

- Summer 2027
  - Application Deadline: Feb. 26, 2027
  - Internship Dates: Jun. 7 - Aug. 13

- Fall 2027
  - Application Deadline: May 21, 2027
  - Internship Dates: Aug. 23 - Dec. 3

What Makes a Good App?

Application Materials? Academic institution, GPA, education history, internship interests, certificates, research, publications, licenses, volunteer, leadership, languages, skills

Application APP-2034668 | Session Test Session 1 | Academic Institution University of Oregon | MSI(s) | GPA 3.20 | Date Printed 02/19/2026

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Academic Institutions

Institution: University of Oregon
Academic Level: Undergraduate Junior
Dates of Attendance: 1/12/2026 - 1/15/2026
Major(s): Mathematics and Statistics - Mathematics, General
Planned Graduation Date:

INTERNSHIP INTERESTS

Why do you want this NASA Internship?
This is the way.

EMPLOYMENT & OTHER EXPERIENCES HISTORY

Employment History

Employer: Mandalorian Parts and Service
Position: Mechanic
Dates of Employment: 3/17/2009 - Present
Primary Responsibilities:
I negotiated with Jawas for the best price on parts they took from my shop.

Other Experiences

Experience Type: Publications
Date: 2/8/2026 - 2/9/2026
Describe Your Experience:
Title: Negotiating 101 - Jawa's best price

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

Skills

Computational
Algorithms

Languages

English

NASA STEM PARTICIPATION

Project:	Engagement:	Engagement Opening:	Session:	Activity Type:
NASA Internships	Internships - GRC	Test Internship for Demos	Intern: Summer 2026	Internships

What Makes a Good App?

- **Application Materials?** Academic institution, GPA, education history, internship interests, certificates, research, publications, licenses, volunteer, leadership, languages, skills

- **In Your Own Words?**

    - Do your research on the project area!
    - What do you bring to the project? Note exactly how you can help with a direct connection to the project.

Application APP-2034668 | Session Test Session 1 | Academic Institution University of Oregon | MSI(s) | GPA 3.20 | Date Printed 02/19/2026

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Possible Interviews

- Be prepared for questions related to the following topics:
    - Why are you interested in NASA?
    - Why are you interested in the project?
    - What do you see as the next step in your career?
    - What can you contribute to the project?

Pro Tip! Make sure to come with 2-3 questions!

NASA Pathways

The Big Qs

What? Paid, multi-semester project for STEM and non-STEM majors working alongside a mentor that prepares for a career at NASA and offers a possible direct pipeline to full-time employment at NASA upon graduation

Who?

- U.S. citizen
- Age 16 or older
- Enrolled at least half-time in an accredited degree or certificate program
- GPA of 2.9 or higher
- Work a minimum of 480 hours before graduating
- Some positions require specific academic majors
- No prior experience is required

The Big Qs

When? Start date specified in the job posting

Where? In person and onsite at the NASA Center noted on the job announcement

How? Submit an application to a specific project area via the USAJobs

Application Deadlines? February and September

Pro Tip! Application windows are open for only a few days. Create your USAJobs profile early and build your resume to be prepared. You can also set up notifications to let you know when the window opens.

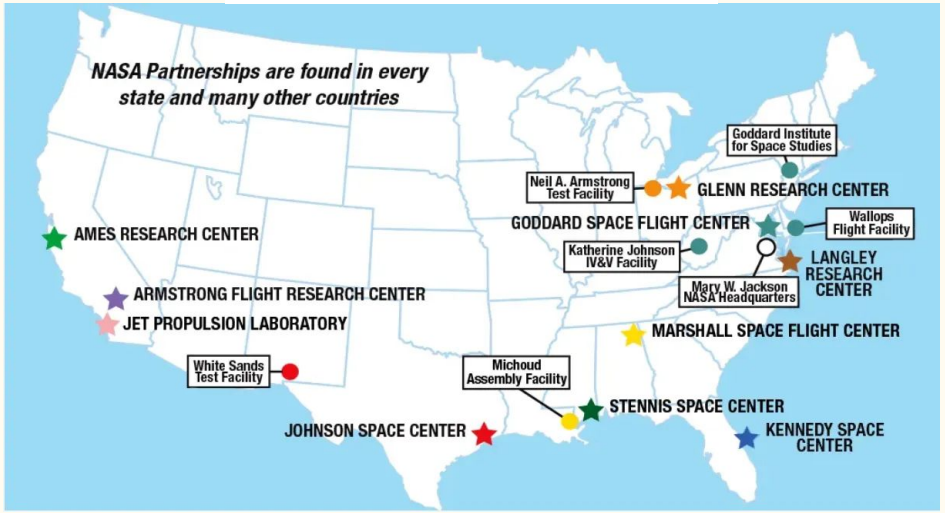
Types of Internships

Engineering, Science, and Technology

- GS-899: Engineering
- GS-1399: Physical Sciences

Business

- GS-0099: Safety & Occupational Health
- GS-199: Social Sciences
- GS-299: Human Resources
- GS-399: Administration and Program Management & Analysis
- GS-599: Accounting & Budget
- GS-1099: Communication & Public Relations
- GS-1199: Procurement and Contracts
- GS-1599: Math & Statistics
- GS-2299: Information Technology



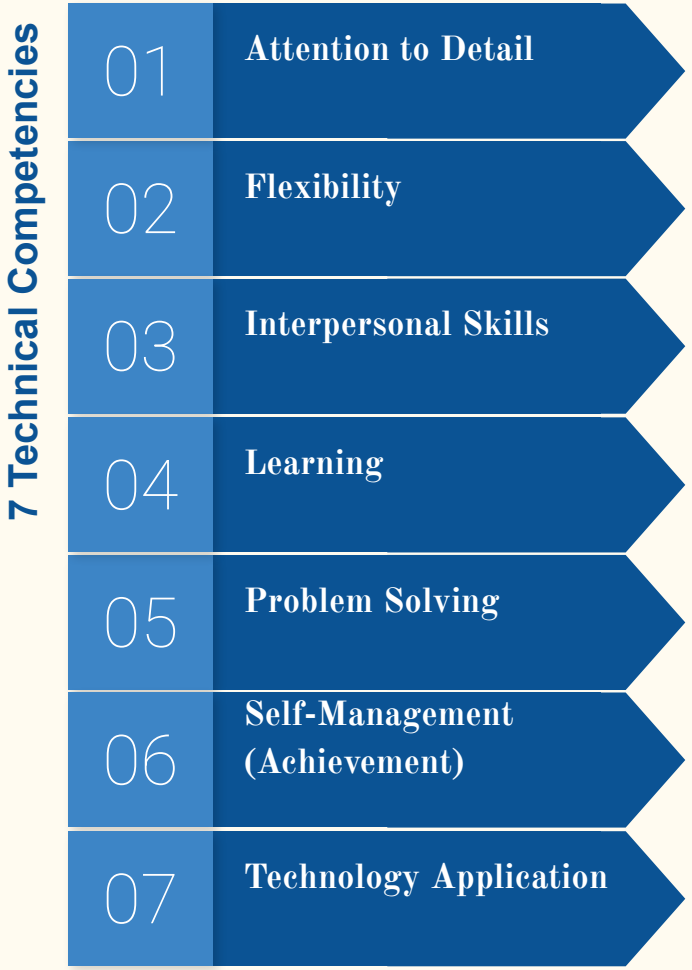
The Application Experience

Application Materials?

- 2 page resume with education, research, and/or work experience
- Transcript or acceptance letter
- Online assessment on 7 non-technical competencies

Second Round?

- Panel review to select interview candidates
- Candidate interview



Accepting Applications Now!

- Spring 2027 applications opened Sept. 21, 2026 and close Sept. 25, 2026
- Expected start date of Jan. 25, 2027
- Looking for the following fields of study...

Fields of Study

Engineering

- **Aerospace Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors:** Aerospace Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Astronautical Engineering
  - **Locations:** Armstrong Flight Research Center (Edwards AFB, CA), Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Glenn Research Center (Cleveland, OH), Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt, MD), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), White Sands Test Facility (Las Cruces, NM), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA), Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL), Stennis Space Center (Stennis Space Center, MS)
    - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Chemical and Materials Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors:** Required majors are Materials Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Welding Engineering, Ceramic Engineering, Molecular Engineering, Polymer Engineering
  - **Locations:** Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Glenn Research Center (Cleveland, OH), Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt, MD), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA), Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL)
  - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Civil and Industrial Systems Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors:** Required majors are Industrial Engineering, Civil Engineering, Systems Engineering, Structural Engineering, Space Systems
  - **Locations:** Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA), Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL)
  - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Computer Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors:** Required majors are Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Software Engineering, Computational Science and Engineering, Mathematics
  - **Locations:** Armstrong Flight Research Center (Edwards AFB, CA), Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Glenn Research Center (Cleveland, OH), Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt, MD), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA), Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL), Stennis Space Center (Stennis Space Center, MS)
  - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Electrical Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors:** Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering
  - **Locations:** Armstrong Flight Research Center (Edwards AFB, CA), Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Glenn Research Center (Cleveland, OH), Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt, MD), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), White Sands Test Facility (Las Cruces, NM), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA), Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL), Stennis Space Center (Stennis Space Center, MS)
  - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Mechanical Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors**: Mechanical Engineering, Engineering Mechanics, Robotics Engineering, Mechatronics
  - **Locations:** Armstrong Flight Research Center (Edwards AFB, CA), Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Glenn Research Center (Cleveland, OH), Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt, MD), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), White Sands Test Facility (Las Cruces, NM), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA), Marshall Space Flight Center (Huntsville, AL), Stennis Space Center (Stennis Space Center, MS)
  - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Human Factors Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors**: Biomedical Engineering
  - **Location:** Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX)
  - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Fire Protection Engineering | 899**
  - **Required majors:** Fire Protection Engineering
  - **Locations:** Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL)
  - **Apply Here**: usajobs.gov/job/885167100
- **Engineering (Research) | 899**
  - **Required majors at the doctorate level:** Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Software Engineering, Computational Science & Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Materials Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering, Materials Science, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, Engineering Mechanics, Mechatronics, Robotics, Physics, Engineering Physics, Math, Planetary Science, Astronomy, Astronautical Engineering, Optical Engineering, Optomechanical Engineering, Quantum Information Science & Engineering, Optics and Photonics, Imaging Science, Welding Engineering, Robotics Engineering
  - **Locations:** Glenn Research Center (Cleveland, OH), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA)
  - **Apply here**: usajobs.gov/job/885164200

Engineering Tech

- **Engineering Technician | 899**
  - **Preferred majors:** Aerospace Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Mechatronics, Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Robotics Engineering Technology
  - **Locations:** Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA)
  - **Apply here:** usajobs.gov/job/885165700

Physical Sciences

- **Physical Sciences | 1399**
  - **Required majors:** Astronomy, Astrophysics, Computer Science, Physics, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Engineering, Mathematics, Physical Science, Geology, Earth Sciences/Planetary Science, Environmental Science, Space Science, Chemistry, Environmental Engineering, Biochemistry, Meteorology, Optical Engineering, Optical Science/Sciences
  - **Locations:** Ames Research Center (Moffett Field, CA), Johnson Space Center (Houston, TX), Goddard Space Flight Center (Greenbelt, MD), Kennedy Space Center (Kennedy Space Center, FL), Langley Research Center (Hampton, VA)
  - **Apply here:** usajobs.gov/job/885165300

Accepting Applications Now!

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- Expected start date of Jan. 25, 2027
- Looking for the following fields of study…
- Lots of resources and videos on how to create a great resume, prepare for the assessment, and an applicant guide on the Pathways website

Pro Tip! Interested in Pathways in the future. Read through the current project posting to learn what types of areas are included and how to prepare.

NASA Postdoctoral Program

The Big Qs

What? Paid, 2-3-year competitive STEM research opportunities for focused on an independent research project proposed by the fellow in response to a NASA project area and guided by a NASA advisor

Who?

- U.S. citizens, U.S. legal permanent residents, non-designated foreign nationals who can receive a J-1 visa
- Must complete requirements for a Ph.D. or an equivalent doctoral degree before the Program start date

NPP

NASA Postdoctoral Program

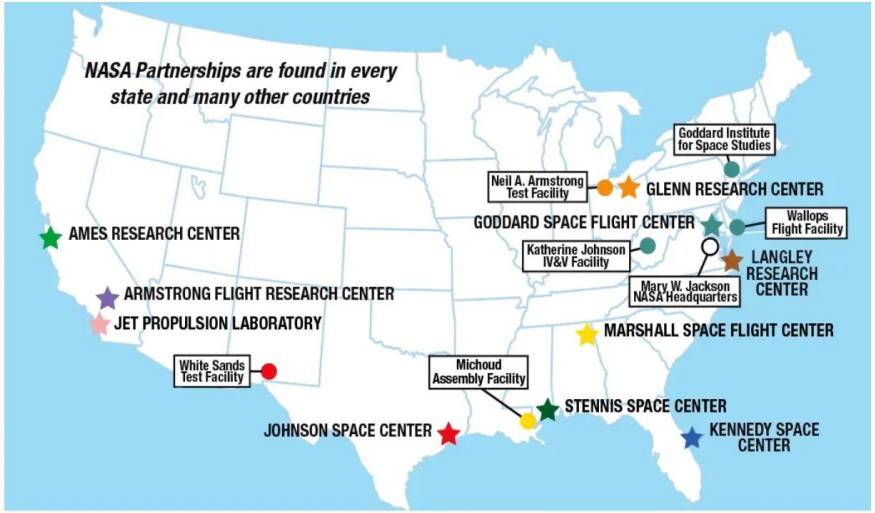
The Big Qs

When? Full-time, start dates on a rolling basis

Where? In person and onsite at the NASA Center noted on the project. No fully remote positions available

How? Submit an application to a specific project area via the NPP Application System

Application Deadlines? November 1, March 1, July 1



Pro Tip! New projects are posted up until 45 days before the next deadline and then project posting is frozen.

The Application Experience?

Application Materials?

- General application information including contact information, citizenship, demographic information, employment, publication, education and research experience
- 15 page max. research proposal, 3 letters of recommendation, and official doctoral transcripts

Interviews? No interviews. Your application must stand on its own.

Pro Tip! Previous opportunities are rolled over to the next cycle and are active for several years. Start looking for opportunities of interest a year before you may want to apply.

The Application Experience?

- **Contact?** Reach out to the NASA advisor associated with the opportunity to discuss specific information related to current research, technical facilities, and scientific advice to develop your proposal.

- **Scoring?**

  - Proposal is scored by the advisor
  - If recommended by advisor, sent to external reviewers
  - Center receives application and scores and selects fellows based on science priorities and number of slots available
  - Selectable applications are kept in a pool and can be selected for one additional cycle.

Currently 537 NPP Research Opportunities Posted

Upcoming Early Career Opportunities

Internships

Next Session: Summer 2027

Application Deadline:
Feb. 26, 2027

Submit an application via NASA STEM Gateway.

Pathways

Next Cycle: Spring 2027

Open Application Dates:
September 21, 2026 -
September 25, 2026

Submit an application via USAJobs.

NPP

Next Cycle: November 1st

Accepting Applications Now!

Submit an application via NPP Application System