

USGS 2020 Cooperative Summer Internship Program



The National Association of Geoscience Teachers (NAGT)/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Cooperative Summer Internship Program is the longest continuously running internship program in the Earth sciences. Over the past 55 years, over 2,500 students have participated in this program, with many participants continuing on to distinguished careers with USGS, academia, and industry.

The cooperative program was launched at the Geological Society of America meeting in Kansas City, MO in early fall of 1965 when William “Bill” Pecora, then the newly appointed Director of the USGS, held a meeting with a small group of distinguished professors and officers of NAGT. Pecora wanted to get the professors’ reactions to an initiative that would provide a stronger link to academia while providing better summer research assistants for the USGS. He suggested that the USGS would provide support through internships for outstanding newly graduated geoscience majors, while NAGT would solicit outstanding student nominations from the directors of the nation’s geoscience field camps. Field camp, a tradition in geoscience education, is an intensive course that applies classroom and laboratory training to solve field-based geoscience problems and is highly valued by employers. A three-fold increase in interns over the past decade supports the success of ‘Pecora’s Plan.’

Although some modifications have been made over time, the NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Internship Program operates today much as it did in the beginning. With active participation and support from the highest levels of both organizations (including the Director of the USGS), a joint committee oversees the program. The program year begins in September when field camp directors (now numbering over 120) are provided program information. Each director may nominate up to three students, depending on the size of their camp enrollment. Nominated students apply by sending a resume, letter of interest, and transcripts to the USGS. At the same time, USGS scientists interested in working with an intern submit a proposal about their field and/or laboratory projects. A science panel then reviews and matches candidates by their course work, skills and interests with up to five projects. The qualified candidates are sent to USGS scientists for review, followed by candidate interviews and ranking for preferred selection. Interviews provide useful opportunities for candidates and scientists to determine a good fit, helping USGS scientists determine final intern selections.

Interdisciplinary science training is a cornerstone of the USGS mission, as such all science disciplines are encouraged to take advantage of the intern program. Former student interns continually receive outstanding reviews from both scientists and supervisors. In 2017, USGS extended the program by forming a new partnership with the GIS Certification Institute, and the following year with the Ecological Society of America. Both organizations have nominated outstanding students, and thus allowed our Cooperative Summer Internship Program to provide top-notch students to train with enthusiastic mentors from all science disciplines.

The Program continues Pecora’s vision of greater educational involvement, providing a first-rate professional experience to students early in their careers. It is a wonderful partnership that influences the career paths of future scientists in positive and exciting ways.

NAGT/USGS 2020 Cooperative Summer Internship Program Placements

Intern: Anna Baker Field Camp: University of Missouri - Columbia Mentor: Walter Mooney Location: Menlo Park, California Project: Geological and Geophysical Studies of Seismic Hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.	Intern: Kristi Hill Field Camp: Western Michigan University Mentor: Brent Topping Location: Menlo Park, California Project: Arsenic Sources in the Klamath Basin.	Intern: Izabella Ogilvie Field Camp: Western Washington University Mentor: Don Sweetkind and Kenzie Turner Location: Lakewood, Colorado Project: GIS-based regional geologic map compilation, Intermountain West and Sierran-Pacific projects
Intern: Emily Bryant Field Camp: Western Washington University Mentor: Ben Pauk Location: Vancouver, Washington Project: Cascades Volcano Observatory Field Electronics	Intern: Elizabeth Horton Field Camp: Brian Collins Mentor: University of Washington Location: Moffett Field, California Project: Updating Soil Moisture Thresholds for Shallow Landslide Monitoring and Warning	Intern: Baylee Olds Field Camp: University of Utah Mentor: Thomas Cronin Location: Reston, Virginia Project: Land Sea Linkages in the Arctic
Intern: Allison Dombrowski Field Camp: University of Missouri - Columbia Mentor: Amy Gilmer Location: Lakewood, Colorado Project: Geochronology Data Compilation, Intermountain West and National Geologic Synthesis Projects	Intern: Sean Hutchings Field Camp: University of Utah Mentor: Walter Mooney Location: Menlo Park, California Project: Geologic and Geophysical Studies of the San Andreas Fault System, California	Intern: Logan Owen Field Camp: Fort Lewis College Mentor: Carma San Juan and Karen Lund Location: Denver, Colorado Project: Geologic Map Transect of the Northern Rockies
Intern: Derek Ensign Field Camp: University of Texas Arlington Mentor: Jeffrey Mauk Location: Denver, Colorado Project: Denver Mineral Separation Laboratory	Intern: Emma Krolczyk Field Camp: West Virginia University Mentor: Shannon Mahan and Matt Emmons Location: Denver, Colorado Project: Stable Isotopes of the Hot Springs Mammoth Site and and Luminescence Dating of the Associated Fall River Terraces	Intern: James Padilla Field Camp: University of Puerto Rico Mentor: Jean Self-Trail Location: Reston, Virginia Project: Micropaleontology of Cenomanian/Turonian sediments of the Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coastal Plain Regions
Intern: William Gnesda Field Camp: Colorado State Mentor: Gregg Swayze Location: Denver, Colorado Project: Spectral and Hyperspectral Imaging of Critical Mineral Resources; USMIN Mineral Deposit Data	Intern: Hannah Kruse Field Camp: University of Oregon Mentor: Heather Wright and Sarah Ogburn Location: Vancouver, Washington Project: Volcano Disaster Assistance Team	Intern: Lydia Pinkham Field Camp: University of Michigan Mentor: Laura Strickland and Lesleigh Anderson Location: Lakewood, Colorado Project: Quaternary Paleoenvironmental Studies using Plant Macrofossils
Intern: Claire Grove Field Camp: Humboldt State University Mentor: Kate Whidden and Christina DeVera Location: North Slope Alaska Project: Cretaceous sandstone reservoir and mudstone source rocks in Northern Alaska	Intern: Edward Larkin Field Camp: Idaho State Mentor: Carma San Juan and Karen Lund Location: Denver, Colorado Project: Geologic Map Transect of the Northern Rockies	Intern: Katherine Pippenger Field Camp: New Zealand Frontiers Abroad Mentor: Cheryl Miller and Jason Alexander Location: Cheyenne, Wyoming Project: Characterizing hydrogeomorphic processes in Littlefield Creek
Intern: Montana Hauke Field Camp: South Dakota School of Mines & Technology Mentor: Carma San Juan and Karen Lund Location: Denver, Colorado Project: Geologic Map Transect of the Northern Rockies	Intern: Noah Lindberg Field Camp: Lehigh University Mentor: William Stephenson and Alena Leeds Location: Golden, Colorado Project: High-Resolution Geophysical Investigations of Hazardous Faults and Seismic Ground Motions—Data for Earthquake Hazard Assessments	Intern: Jordan Pritchard Field Camp: Indiana University Mentor: Javin Hatcherian and Paul Hackley Location: Reston, Virginia Project: Thermal Indices round-robin
Intern: Micah Hernandez Field Camp: Colorado State Mentor: Carma San Juan and Karen Lund Location: Denver, Colorado Project: Geologic Map Transect of the Northern Rockies	Intern: Jennifer Marsh Field Camp: Wasatch Uinta Field Camp Mentor: Michael Poland Location: Vancouver, Washington Project: Geodetic monitoring of volcanoes in the western United States	Intern: Halle Putera Field Camp: South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Mentor: Walter Mooney Location: Menlo Park, California Project: Geologic and Geophysical Studies of the San Andreas Fault System, California
Intern: Elizabeth Hill Field Camp: University of Minnesota Twin Cities Mentor: Melinda Erickson Location: Mounds View, Minneapolis Project: Geologic-sourced arsenic contamination in drinking water aquifers of the contiguous US: a widespread problem	Intern: Shae McLafferty Field Camp: Iowa State - University of Nebraska Field Camp Mentor: Richard Briggs Location: Golden, Colorado Project: Earthquake geology and geochronology in the western U.S.	

Intern: Jessica Reid
Field Camp: Indiana University
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geological and Geophysical Studies of Seismic Hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.

Intern: Amanda Ringer
Field Camp: Central Washington University
Mentor: Carma San Juan and Jeff Mauk
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: USMIN Mineral Deposit Database

Intern: Karissa Rosenberger
Field Camp: New Mexico Tech
Mentor: Kim Perkins and John Nimmo
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Quantifying fluxes and resources in the water cycle

Intern: Mercedes Salazar
Field Camp: New Mexico Tech
Mentor: Denis LeBlanc and Timothy McCobb
Location: Northborough, Massachusetts
Project: Hydrology and Water Quality of Cape Cod's Groundwater/Surface-Water System

Intern: Alex Schwarz
Field Camp: Wasatch Uinta Field Camp
Mentor: Carma San Juan and Jeffrey Mauk
Location: Denver, Colorado
Project: USMIN Mineral Deposit Database

Intern: Catherine Seguin
Field Camp: University of Michigan
Mentor: Andy Gendaszek
Location: Tacoma, Washington
Project: Water Temperature Mapping in the Snoqualmie and Skykomish River Basins and Modeling Water Temperature in the Tolt River

Intern: Kent Smith
Field Camp: University of New Mexico
Mentor: Andrew Waite
Location: Ithica, New York
Project: NY Surface water and Ground Water Data Collection

Intern: Haley Spalla
Field Camp: Bowling Green State University
Mentor: Jack Eggleston
Location: Kearneysville, West Virginia
Project: Mapping catastrophic floods with high-resolution multi-spectral and radar remote-sensing data

Intern: Brett Trotter
Field Camp: Western Michigan University
Mentor: John Lane and Fred Day-Lewis
Location: Storrs, Connecticut
Project: Applied Hydrogeophysics Research

Intern: Carson Tunnell
Field Camp: University of Texas Dallas
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geological and Geophysical Studies of Seismic Hazards in the Central and Eastern U.S.

Intern: Paige Voss
Field Camp: Pomona College
Mentor: Kim Perkins and John Nimmo
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Quantifying fluxes and resources in the water cycle

Intern: Jack Willard
Field Camp: Oregon State University
Mentor: Stephen DeLong
Location: Moffett Field, California
Project: Earthquake Hazards in Northern California

Intern: Laurie Zielinski
Field Camp: South Dakota School of Mines and Technology
Mentor: Jared Peacock, Jonathan Glen, Victoria Langenheim and Dan Scheirer
Location: Moffett Field, California
Project: Geophysical investigations related to geothermal, mineral, and water resources and to natural hazards in the western U.S.

ESA/USGS 2020 Cooperative Summer Internship Program Placements

Intern: Skyler Bennis
College: University of California, Davis
Mentor: Nicholas Johnson
Location: Millersburg, Michigan
Project: Deploy and evaluate sea lamprey controls to supplement lampricides and barriers

Intern: Allie Carlile
College: University of Oklahoma
Mentor: Ralph Grundel
Location: Indiana Dunes National Park
Project: Effective restoration and landscape design for pollinator conservation in the Great Lakes Basin

Intern: Marissa Cartwright
College: Coe College
Mentor: James Shanley
Location: Montpelier, Vermont
Project: Mountains to sea – fluvial transport of carbon and nutrients and effects on ecosystems and people

Intern: Julia David
College: University of Michigan
Mentor: Rich Sheibley
Location: Puget Sound, Washington
Project: Water quality and ecological sampling to support status and trends monitoring of small streams in Puget Sound

Intern: Diana Dimarco
College: Seattle University
Mentor: Amanda Demopoulos
Location: Gainesville, Florida
Project: Connectivity of coral ecosystems in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico: applications of microchemistry and isotopic analysis to fish and coral populations

Intern: Haley Disinger
College: Furman University
Mentor: Matt Fisk and Matt Germino
Location: Boise, Idaho
Project: Assessing impacts of aridification, drought, and land-use on drylands of the Colorado Plateau

Intern: Joshua Driscoll
College: Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Mentor: Diann Prosser
Location: Laurel, Maryland
Project: Monitoring Colonial Waterbirds on Poplar Island

Intern: Sydnee Dunn
College: California State University Fullerton
Mentor: Matt Fisk and Matt Germino
Location: Boise, Idaho
Project: Assessing impacts of aridification, drought, and land-use on drylands of the Colorado Plateau

Intern: Addison Gruber
College: College of the Atlantic
Mentor: Tabitha Graves
Location: West Glacier, Montana
Project: Western Bumblebee Sampling

Intern: Natalie Holsclaw
College: Northern Kentucky University
Mentor: Greg Noe
Location: Reston, Virginia
Project: Experimental suppression of invasive lake trout in Glacier National Park, and measuring streamflow as part of the USGS Integrated Drought Science Plan

Intern: Lauren Mason-Sarantopoulos
College: Northern Arizona University
Mentor: Theodore Kennedy
Location: Grand Canyon
Project: Aquatic Ecology of the Colorado River

Intern: Katherine Meyr
College: Weber State University
Mentor: Robert Al-Chokachy and Adam Sepulveda
Location: Springdale, Montana
Project: Assessing the effects of drought on native trout in the Greater Yellowstone Area

Intern: Liana Stachowicz
College: University of North Carolina
Mentor: Meagan Gonnee
Location: Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Project: Interaction of environmental variables on methane production in managed wetlands

Intern: Haley Turner
College: George Mason University
Mentor: Andy Royle
Location: Laurel, Maryland
Project: Population Study of Box Turtles on the Patuxent Refuge using Digital Image Processing and Machine Learning Concepts

Intern: Emily Tvedt
College: George Washington University
Mentor: Craig Snyder
Location: Shenandoah National Park
Project: Brook trout vulnerability to drought: eastern component of USGS national integrated ecohydrological research and monitoring plan

GISCI/USGS 2020 Cooperative Summer Internship Program Placements

Intern: Elijah Allan
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: Daniel Griffith and Kristin Byrd
Location: Moffett Field, California
Project: Advancing Ecosystem Science with Ground-based Spectral Measurements of Plant Functional Diversity in California

Intern: Indigo Bannister
College: University of California Santa Barbara
Mentor: Alisa Wade
Location: Missoula, Montana
Project: Building a Shared Framework for Regional Wildlife Climate Adaptation Planning

Intern: Brittany Bufford
College: Texas Southern University
Mentor: Eliza Gross
Location: Central and Southeast Pennsylvania
Project: Geochemical Processes and Pesticides in Vulnerable Crystalline Aquifers of the Piedmont Hydrogeologic Setting

Intern: Eammon Jensen
College: Oregon State University
Mentor: Kristina Hopkins and Ana Garcia
Location: Raleigh, North Carolina
Project: Mapping stream and floodplain geomorphic characteristics in North Carolina

Intern: Sharifa Karwandyar
College: Middle Tennessee State
Mentor: Meg Palmsten
Location: St. Petersburg, Florida
Project: Validation of the USGS Total Water Level Forecast

Intern: Cody McPherson
College: Eastern Washington University
Mentor: Andrew Waite
Location: Troy, New York
Project: NY Surface water and Ground Water Data Collection

Intern: Ashton Woods
College: Florida Atlantic University
Mentor: Walter Mooney
Location: Menlo Park, California
Project: Geologic and Geophysical Studies of the San Andreas Fault System, California

Geology and ecology field course directors can participate through our partnerships with the [NAGT](#) or [ESA](#). Please visit the appropriate websites for additional information on how to nominate students. Nominations are due in early fall (although for the 2021 season we will be accepting applicants later due to alterations in 2020 field course schedules).