Application for:
Summer Internship Program
at the USDA ARS NCAUR (The Ag Lab)

Dear Prospective Student Researcher:

The USDA, ARS, NCAUR (also known as the Ag Lab) in Peoria, IL is hiring several undergraduate student interns for the summer of 2023. NCAUR is committed to hiring and training a diverse group of students as well as promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in STEM fields and in the USDA workplace.

Students will participate in a cohort of learning to include laboratory training, activities that provide exposure to a wide range of research topics relevant to agriculture, opportunities to develop connections with fellow students and NCAUR staff, and weekly lunch-and-learn sessions focused on career preparation and professional development.

There are seven distinct research units at NCAUR that tackle agriculture’s biggest questions using a diverse set of approaches, from chemistry and biology to computer science and physics. A description of the lab experiences being offered this year can be found in the application as well as attached to this document. As part of the application below, you will be asked to identify your top four choices of labs you’d be interested in working with. While all reasonable attempts to place applicants in their top choice will be made, we cannot guarantee placement due to space limitations. Prior research lab experience is not necessary, as all new techniques will be taught to you, but an enthusiasm for science is essential!

The internship will last for 8 weeks from 6/5/2023 to 7/28/2023. Students will receive a biweekly gross wage of approximately $1,200.00, which is the Federal General Schedule (GS) 3 level. Students will work full time (40 hr/week) and will be responsible for housing and transportation to and from work. However, NCAUR is on a bus line and arrangements have been made with Bradley University, 1 mile away, to offer affordable housing options.

For the application, please complete the form that is linked in the application materials section. Submit, via email, a resume, academic transcripts, and a cover letter expressing why you are interested in this position and how it would help you reach your career goals. Please have one STEM professor fill out the reference form.


Requirements

• Applicants must have completed at least two semesters of college by the start of the internship
• Males born after 12-31-59 must be registered with Selective Service
• Successful adjudication of fingerprint check
• Must be a U.S. citizen

GS 3 Requirements:
Successful completion of 1 year of study that included at least 6 semester hours in any combination of scientific or technical courses such as biology, chemistry, statistics, entomology, animal husbandry, botany, physics, agriculture, or mathematics.

This is not a Pathways Internship. USDA/ARS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Timeline:

Application and recommendation deadline: March 10th
Selection of intern and notification to students: March 24th
Student’s decision: March 31st

Please see page 3 for the application process and materials.
Application Materials

1. Submit the application materials via email to Kim Ascherl: kim.ascherl@usda.gov
   a. Student Application Form: https://forms.office.com/g/DJGKrJkReW
   b. Cover letter: Express why you are interested in an internship at NCAUR
   c. Resume
   d. Official transcript: You may submit an unofficial transcript with your application, but an official transcript will be needed within one week of acceptance of the internship position.

2. Have one STEM professor fill out the recommendation form: https://forms.office.com/g/VWPPVR6ZFb

All application materials and recommendation forms must be submitted to kim.ascherl@usda.gov by: 3/10/23

To view this advertisement and the accompanying materials online, please visit: https://www.ars.usda.gov/midwest-area/peoria-il/national-center-for-agricultural-utilization-research/docs/ncaur-student-internships/

Questions?
Contact: kim.ascherl@usda.gov

USDA – ARS – NCAUR
Summer Internship Program
1815 N University St
Peoria IL 61604
309.681-6541

USDA Agricultural Research Service
National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR)