Virtual Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program at Gaithersburg

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Open & closing dates
📅 12/10/2020 to 02/14/2021

Service
Competitive

Pay scale & grade
ZP 0

Salary
$4,910 to $6,000 student stipend paid

Appointment type
Internships - This is a continuous 11-week appointment scheduled May 24, 2021 to August 6, 2021. There are a limited number of 9-week appointments available June 7, 2021 to August 6, 2021. Students are appointed as guest researchers and not federal employees.

Work schedule
Full-Time - Participants are expected to work remotely on Monday through Friday during the hours set by the sponsoring lab. Due to the length of the program, students are not permitted to take vacation or attend summer school.

Location

Many vacancies in the following location:

📍 Gaithersburg, MD

Relocation expenses reimbursed
No
Telework eligible
Yes as determined by agency policy

This job is open to

**The public**
U.S. citizens, nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

**Students**
Current students enrolled in accredited educational institutions from high school to graduate level. Includes internships, pathways and other student programs.

Clarification from the agency
Current undergraduate (freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior) students enrolled at 2-year or 4-year institutions of higher education in the U.S. or its territories. Note: Freshmen and graduating seniors (defined as seniors participating in the Spring Commencement) are encouraged to apply to the program.
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is seeking undergraduate students to serve as guest researchers for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program. SURF is focused on developing talent and experience for careers in STEM which supports the NIST mission. To learn more about the program, visit [https://www.nist.gov/surf](https://www.nist.gov/surf).

**Responsibilities**

The SURF Program provides research opportunities for students to work with internationally known NIST scientists, to expose them to cutting-edge research and promote the pursuit of graduate degrees in science and engineering. SURF gives students an opportunity to:

- Gain substantive career experience related to your academic interests,
- Acquire lifelong leadership, management, and analytical skills,
- Learn about a career in public service,
- Build professional relationships, contacts, and networks, and
- Observe the daily operations and working environment of a premier federal laboratory.

**Imagining yourself in the NIST laboratories.**

NIST seeks students from a broad range of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines including (but not limited to) biochemistry, biology, biophysics, chemistry, computer science, engineering, materials science, mathematics, nanoscale science, neutron...
research, physics, and/or statistics. Students work under the guidance of a research mentor in the NIST operating units (OU). The following OU's participate in the SURF program: Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL), Engineering Laboratory (EL), Information Technology Laboratory (ITL), Material Measurement Laboratory (MML) in partnership with the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR), and Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML). As part of the application process, all students are required to identify and select first and second choice host laboratories where they would like to be considered for a possible placement. Laboratories should be chosen carefully, because the completed application is considered primarily by the first choice host laboratory.

Due to the multi-disciplinary nature of NIST's research, we encourage students to look through the different laboratory websites to discover lots of interesting project areas. For example, a chemistry student may find project opportunities in ITL, PL, and EL in addition to the logical choice of MML/NCNR. Similar opportunities exist for those in other disciplines. For a detailed description of SURF projects in each NIST laboratory and prior summer acceptance rates, students are encouraged to review laboratory descriptions and acceptance rates at https://www.nist.gov/surf/surf-gaithersburg/research-programs.

While duties and responsibilities may vary by laboratory, all accepted students must:

- Attend a virtual technical seminar series
- Participate in extramural group activities intended to enrich their fellowship experience
- Compose and submit an abstract half-way through the program summarizing research accomplishments
- Deliver an oral presentation SURF during the final week of the program

**Travel Required**

Not required

**Supervisory status**

No

**Promotion Potential**

0

**Job family (Series)**

1399 Physical Science Student Trainee
USAJOBS is a United States Office of Personnel Management website.

EEO Policy Statement

Reasonable Accommodation Policy Statement

Veterans Information

Legal and Regulatory Guidance

Budget and Performance

FOIA

Inspector General

No Fear Act Data

Privacy Policy

USA.gov