



# NREL's Student Training in Applied Research Program

## Student and Faculty Fact Sheet

### Program Overview

The NREL Student Training in Applied Research (STAR) internship is a year-long program that provides undergraduate students from minority-serving institutions the opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge research while progressing in their studies at their home universities.

### Program Design

The STAR program uses a multipronged approach with two core phases; a summer internship and follow-on work during the academic year.

#### Summer Internship at NREL

The program begins with a ten-week summer internship at NREL when the STAR intern will work on a research topic under the direct guidance of their NREL mentor.

#### Key dates and benefits

- May 20 – July 26, 2024 in Golden, Colorado (or at NREL's Fairbanks campus for AK local applicants)
- The STAR program covers intern travel, housing, professional development, and experiential learning activities
- Salaried position (hourly) with benefits
- Applications open December 2023

#### Academic Year Follow-on Work

Following the summer internship, STAR interns will return to their university campuses and conduct follow-on work guided by their faculty and NREL mentors throughout the 2024-2025 academic year. Subsequent follow-on work enables students to contribute to cutting-edge research while progressing in their studies at their home universities.

Bridging existing gaps in education, research, and public service to create career pathways for undergraduate students and build long term partnerships with minority-serving institutions



Students and faculty will be compensated for their work and contributions through subcontracts NREL issues with each of the participating universities.

## Mentoring in the STAR program

STAR interns work alongside both faculty and NREL mentors to deliver on joint-research objectives and develop professional and technical skills necessary for the workforce or continued education.

### Mentor Structure

Mentorship is a layered, complementary system. For the purposes of this internship program, there is support from both the NREL and university sides.

- **NREL mentor:** formal mentor with daily hands-on engagement with the intern at the project level during the 10-week summer internship

**Along with the opportunities to build their skillset in research methods, students will be part of a community of like-minded scholars who will be the future leaders of our clean energy transition**

- **Faculty advisor:** faculty advisor who supports the STAR intern from the university side, primarily during the follow-on work portion of the program

### Faculty Mentors

Each STAR intern will apply to this program with an identified faculty advisor. This faculty advisor's expertise should relate to the research internship their student is applying for. If selected, the faculty advisor and student will then be paired with an NREL researcher who has similar research interests and expertise.

Through shared research goals and interests, faculty advisors and NREL researchers can more effectively co-mentor and guide their STAR mentee. This triad of NREL researcher, faculty mentor, and undergraduate student was designed help to develop long-term relationships built on trust and communication, and

to foster collaboration and learning exchanges in the industry.

## Get Involved

NREL's University Partnerships Program is looking for motivated student and faculty pairs for 2024. If you are interested, please contact our team.

Applications open for students in December 2023. If interested, please prepare application material including an updated resume, cover letter, letter of recommendation from the committed faculty advisor, and a current transcript.

Our team will be hosting an informational webinar going into detail on the application process and participating research projects. Please register to attend [here](#).

## Contact

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Visit the [Student Training in Applied Research internship page](#) via [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)