

NOAA Ocean Exploration Explorer-in-Training Program Application 2024

As part of its mission to train the next generation of ocean explorers, scientists, engineers, and communicators, NOAA Ocean Exploration hosts students and early career professionals in the Explorer-in-Training Program. These interns gain valuable, interdisciplinary experience in ocean exploration while collaborating on office projects and expeditions. **The Explorer-in-Training Program is offering sea-going and shore-based opportunities for 2024. Internships with the following themes are available: Exploration Education, Media, & Science Communication; Ocean Mapping; and Ocean Exploration Science & Technology.**

Applications for the 2-4 week expedition-based opportunities will be accepted on a rolling basis, with a priority deadline of January 31st, 2024. After this priority deadline, applications will still be accepted until all slots are filled for the 2024 field season. **Applications for the 10-week shore-based opportunities will be accepted until January 31st, 2024.**

Additional information about the program can be found on the [NOAA Ocean Exploration website](#). If you have any questions about the application form, please email oe.explorerintraining@noaa.gov.

Public Burden Statement

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with an information collection subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 unless the information collection has a currently valid OMB Control Number. The approved OMB Control Number for this information collection is 0690-0038. Without this approval, we could not conduct this information collection. Public reporting for this information collection is estimated to be approximately one hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the information collection. All responses to this



information collection required to obtain services or benefits. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this information collection, including suggestions for reducing this burden to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at 1315 East West Highway, SSMC#3, Silver Spring, MD 20910 Attn: Kristen Crossett, NOAA Ocean Exploration Outreach & Education Division Chief (kristen.crossett@noaa.gov).

Privacy Act Statement

Authority: The collection of this information is authorized under 5 U.S.C. 301, Departmental Regulations and 15 U.S.C. 1512, Powers and duties of Department.

Purpose: NOAA's proposes to collect contact information and associated background information of applicants in order to award internships for the Explorer-in-Training Program. Demographic information will be used to measure the success of stated Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) goals only. This information will not be used to determine program eligibility.

Routine Uses: NOAA will use this information to evaluate and assess applicant data and information for the purpose of selecting successful candidates for internships, generating internal NOAA reports and articles to demonstrate the success of its program. Disclosure of this information is permitted under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. Section 552a) to be shared among NOAA staff for work-related purposes. Disclosure of this information is also subject to all of the published routine uses as identified in the Privacy Act System of Records Notice Commerce/DEPT-18, Employees Personnel Files Not Covered by Notices of Other Agencies.

Obligation to Respond: Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to provide information may prevent consideration of your application for the program.

OMB Control Number 0690-0038 and Expiration Date: 7/31/2026

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Email *

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Contact Information and General Questions

First (Given) Name *

Your answer

Last (Family) Name *

Your answer

Email Address *

Your answer



Phone Number *

Your answer

Education Status as of Summer 2024 *

- ☐ Currently enrolled undergraduate student
- ☐ Currently enrolled graduate student
- ☐ Recently completed undergraduate degree
- ☐ Recently completed graduate degree

College/University Affiliation *

Your answer

Degree Track/Major (e.g., B.S. Geology, M.A. Science Communication, etc.) *

Your answer

City of Residence (note: if you are applying for the Expedition-Based Ocean Mapping internship, please list the city where you require travel from to join the expedition) *

Your answer



State of Residence (note: if you are applying for the Expedition-Based Ocean Mapping internship, please list the state where you require travel from to join the expedition)

Your answer

Zip Code (note: if you are applying for the Expedition-Based Ocean Mapping internship, please list the zip code where you require travel from to join the expedition)

*

Your answer

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Program Selection, Availability, and Internship Theme Questions

This year, the Explorer-in-Training Program will feature two internship options: (a) 2 to 4-week expedition-based opportunities and (b) 10-week summertime opportunities. To learn more about each of these different opportunities and projects, please visit the [Explorer-in-Training Program webpage](#). **Applicants may only apply for one internship track.**



Please indicate which internship opportunity you are applying for: *

- ☐ 2-4 week, expedition-based ocean mapping opportunities (aboard NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer)

10-week, remote and at-sea (aboard NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer) summer internship (Exploration Education, Media, & Science Communication): This hybrid, shore-based and at-sea internship is for an intern to develop web and social media content on ocean exploration topics. The intern would spend a period of time working remotely shoreside to develop content such as ocean facts or exploration tool descriptions while learning basic web content development processes and styles. The intern would then join a mapping expedition in the Pacific Ocean on NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer to develop further content (e.g., personal reflection logs, ocean facts, and blogs) and social media posts to highlight ocean mapping operations. Prospective interns should have a background in or be interested in science communication and/or writing and have a foundational understanding of marine science concepts.

- ☐ 10-week, in-person, summer internship in Washington D.C. (Ocean Exploration Science & Technology): The following opportunity is for an undergraduate or graduate student to learn and contribute to NOAA Ocean Exploration's 'Omics priorities. Through this opportunity, the student would learn laboratory techniques to extract environmental DNA (eDNA) samples for sequencing. eDNA samples are routinely collected on the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer and are processed for sequencing at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History (NMNH). Under supervision & guidance at NMNH, the student would contribute genetic sample processing through eDNA extraction & amplicon sequencing preparation. There will also be opportunity for the student to contribute to the development of the NOAA Ocean Exploration eDNA sampling protocol. Some experience in eDNA processing or analysis is preferred, but not required.

- ☐ 10-week, remote, [start date TBD] internship (Ocean Exploration Science & Technology): This opportunity is for a graduate student to help with photogrammetry processing for Ocean Exploration Trust expedition NA154: Ala 'Aumoana Kai Uli in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, funded by NOAA Ocean Exploration. The student will need to be familiar with and have access to hardware and Agisoft Metashape software capable of generating photo models that will aid archaeologists, educators, and communicators. The photo models will be incorporated into the beginning stages of NOAA Ocean Exploration's digital, virtual collection of photo models from underwater cultural heritage-focused remotely operated vehicle dives of the past. This position will also contribute to National Register of Historic Places nominating efforts for sites documented during NA154. Prospective interns should have a background or interest in learning about



underwater cultural heritage, photogrammetry, historic preservation, maritime archaeology, anthropology, and/or maritime heritage.

10-week, remote, summer internship (Ocean Exploration Science & Technology): This opportunity is for an intern to engage and contribute to NOAA Ocean Exploration maritime archaeology activities and priorities. The intern will annotate past shipwreck video collected during remotely operated vehicle dives aboard NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer. The student will work with NOAA Ocean Exploration marine archaeologists to better understand these significant historical sites and write National Register of Historic Places eligibility determinations. Using existing NOAA Ocean Exploration data, the student will also lead the archaeological analysis and possible peer-reviewed publication of a previously-investigated underwater cultural heritage site. Prospective interns should have a background or interest in learning about underwater cultural heritage, maritime archaeology, anthropology, and/or maritime heritage.



If you are applying for the 2-4 week, expedition-based ocean mapping opportunities, please indicate your availability for the following months in 2023:

	Fully available for this month	Not available for this month	Partially available for this month (please indicate dates of availability in the next question)
April	☐	☐	☐
May	☐	☐	☐
June	☐	☐	☐
July	☐	☐	☐
August	☐	☐	☐
September	☐	☐	☐
October	☐	☐	☐
November	☐	☐	☐

If you have partial availability for any of the above months, please specify below (if applicable):

Your answer

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Supporting Documents: Essay Questions and CV/Resume

The following supporting documents are required to complete your application:

- A current resume or curriculum vitae (CV). Do not include sensitive personally identifiable information (i.e., date of birth, social security number, student identification number, etc.).
- Answers to following required/optional short answer questions:
 1. What attracts you to ocean exploration? (maximum 250 words; this question is **required**)
 2. What are your expectations for an Explorer-in-Training internship? What skills and/or experience are you hoping to gain to advance your future career goals? (maximum 500 words; this question is **required**)
 3. NOAA Ocean Exploration is committed to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Tell us about your journey and how you would like to contribute to NOAA Ocean Exploration's goal of creating a more diverse global pool of talent engaged in deep ocean exploration (maximum 500 words; this question is **required**).

Please upload these supporting documents as a single PDF or Word file.



Please upload supporting documents (resume/CV and short-answer question responses): *

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References

Please ask your references for permission to include their information before final submission of your application. If necessary, your references may be contacted by email and asked to schedule a short phone call with a NOAA Ocean Exploration team member. If your reference is unable to schedule a phone call, they will be able to complete a form with a few short questions.

Academic reference name, title, and contact information (email address) *

Your answer

Character reference name, title, and contact information (email address) *

Your answer



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Optional Demographic Questions

As part of our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, we ask all applicants to volunteer the following demographic information.

Demographic information will be used to measure the success of stated Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) goals only. This information will not be used to determine program eligibility and submission of this information is entirely voluntary. You



can choose to respond to some questions and not others. Accordingly, all questions in section of the form are not required for successful submission of the form.

Are you a U.S. Veteran or active duty service member?

☐ Yes

☐

Are you the first generation in your family to attend college and/or university?

☐ Yes

☐ No



Do you or your organization identify with any of the following groups that the federal government, in Executive Order 13985, has identified as underserved? Check all that apply.

- a) Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color
- b) Members of religious minorities
- c) Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons
- d) Persons with disabilities
- e) Persons who live in rural areas
- f) Persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality
- g) No, I do not identify with any of these groups

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Confirmation and Application Submission

Where did you hear of this opportunity?

Your answer

Any additional comments:

Your answer



Send me a copy of my responses.

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