

ORNL Opportunities

A newsletter of internships and jobs for new graduates

OCTOBER 2026

New web site to launch in October

Oak Ridge National Laboratory will be launching large parts of a new external web site during the month of October. As a result, some of our internal links will change. We do not want to steer you wrong, so this issue of ORNL Opportunities only provides links to the “top” of some resource pages, trusting it is better for you to navigate within the pages than for you to be surprised by a dead link or a jump link that does not go where you expected. Here are the main addresses you need to know, and these will not change:

Main ORNL web page	ornl.gov
Office of Research Education (ORE) and internship information	ornl.gov/education
Postdoctoral fellowship and other employment offerings	ornl.gov/careers

Internship Opportunities

ORNL offers internships at the undergraduate, recent graduate, and graduate levels. Most undergraduates participate in fixed-term internships that take place over the summer, fall, or spring academic terms. Most graduate students participate in collaborative research internships with flexible start and end dates that are intended to facilitate research that aids in the completion of their degrees (GRO or SCGSR). All internships at ORNL are paid and include a housing allowance for students living outside the immediate ORNL surroundings.

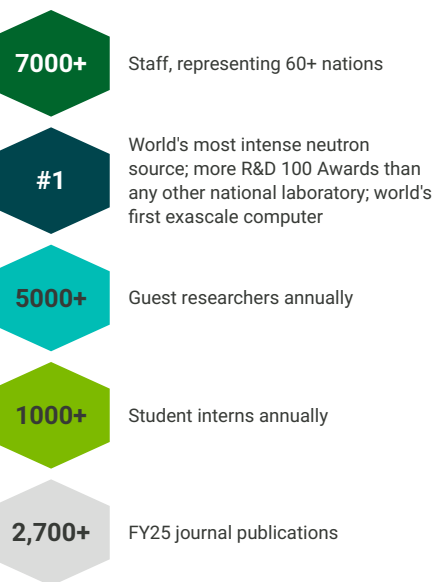
Programs and application links

All application links, as well as current information on webinars, requirements, deadlines, and other dates, are always available within the ORE pages found at ornl.gov/education.

An important concept for students wanting to do an internship at either the undergraduate or graduate level is that mentors pick their own students. Thus, we strongly advise that undergraduate students make contact with potential mentors—like they would if they were seeking a research position at a university—before or during their application process. Graduate students must have a mentor lined up before applying.

ORNL Opportunities is a monthly newsletter for the Core Universities of Oak Ridge National Laboratory

As part of the original University Partnership Vision, ORNL established a founding group of core partners that includes Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, North Carolina State, Vanderbilt, Virginia, and Virginia Tech. This newsletter is intended to provide monthly updates on opportunities for students at these institutions looking for internships, postdoctoral positions, and early career opportunities.



Whether you have a question about something here, or just want to talk to someone at ORNL, I'd like to hear from you.

William Jenks

Core Universities Partnerships Program Lead
jenksws@ornl.gov

Finding a mentor and the new mentor/project selection tool

The [educational programs web page](#) has resources to help you locate and talk to a mentor. Look for a page with the heading “Find a Mentor” or something very similar. ORNL is organized into directorates much as universities are organized into colleges. That page will help explain how to get down to the Group level, which is our equivalent of a small department. Group leaders are great people to ask about mentoring because they probably take students and they also know who within their groups would be a good match. Another place to look is the Google-like page impact.ornl.gov. Searching there for topics can lead you to both individual staff and groups.

New this fall: a searchable mentor/project tool. We know that finding the right mentor is a challenge, and we have launched a new tool to help you do exactly that. We have made a compact downloadable HTML file that lets you search through more than 100 mentors by using your major, your desired research area or method, or any keyword. The file is entirely safe and self-contained; it does not store any information or require any network access. It will show you representative mentors that have indicated their interest in taking students for Summer 2027. Download the mentor tool [here](#). Check it occasionally for updates with more mentors.



Mentor catalog



Virtual Internship Fair

We also encourage you to contact them directly or take advantage of our ORNL Virtual Internship Fair, which lets you book time with specific mentors during times they have set aside in November. Click [here](#) to get full information and the link to sign up.

Informational webinars

ORE offers informational webinars every month for students who want to learn more about our internship opportunities and strategies for making a successful application. Upcoming sessions are below.

Undergraduate Educational Opportunities at ORNL	Thursday, October 1, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	Register ›
An Introduction to Graduate Student Research Opportunities	Tuesday, October 6, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	Register ›
Tips and Strategies for ORNL Internship Applications	Tuesday, October 13, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	Register ›
Educational Programming Office Hours	Wednesday, October 14, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	Register ›
Undergraduate Educational Opportunities at ORNL	Thursday, November 5, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	Register ›

Programs and deadlines

DOE Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI): Undergraduates and recent grads in all areas of research. The application window for SULI internships is October 14, 2026, through January 6, 2027. We advise students to open an application early and get the required letter of recommendation in by Thanksgiving, because it can be difficult to get faculty to write letters during winter break. You can finish and submit the application any time until the deadline.

Research Student Internships (RSI): Undergraduates, recent grads, and graduate students in all areas of research. Applications for Spring 2027 are currently open and will close on October 28, 2026. Applications for Summer 2027 will open in early November.

Technical and Professional Internships (TPI): Undergraduates, recent grads, and graduate students looking for “practitioner” rather than “research” internships; also internships in non-science areas, such as communications and business operations. Applications for Spring 2027 are currently open and will close on October 28, 2026. Applications for Summer 2027 will open in early November.

Graduate Research at ORNL (GRO): Graduate students interested in dissertation-related research. Flexible start and end dates, rolling applications. This is our largest graduate student internship program. To start an application, you must identify an ORNL mentor scientist who will supervise the application. The mentor will initiate the application.

DOE Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program (SCGSR): PhD candidates interested in dissertation-related research. This prestigious DOE-funded graduate internship has two application windows per year. 2026 Solicitation 2 is open now and is aimed at students who will start at ORNL in summer 2027. Applications are due November 4, 2026, and proposed project periods may start between June 7 and October 4, 2027.

Reach out to ORE at education@ornl.gov.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Opportunities

Postdoctoral appointments are fully professional opportunities, normally for two years and extendable to three. A competitive compensation package accompanies the unique and exciting research opportunities of working at ORNL, one of the world's leading research institutions. All postings are open searches posted at ornl.gov/careers and clicking "Students & Postdocs." You can sign up for a weekly email listing at the web site.

These listings are a snapshot of the available postdoctoral openings taken September 29, 2026. The list will certainly differ when you visit, with some closed and some new ones opened. Please visit ornl.gov/careers for current listings. Click any title below to go to its posting.

POSTDOCTORAL OPENING

Postdoctoral Research Associate — AI and CFD

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Grid Modeling

Postdoctoral Research Associate — MPEX Boundary and PMI Modeling

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Robotics and Navigation

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Advanced Reactor Core Materials Characterization

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Advanced Nuclear Reactor and Fuel Cycle Engineer

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Thermal Energy Storage Group

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Urban Energy Modeling, Grid-interactive Controls

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Modeling, Control, and AI for Thermal Systems

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Coastal Landscape Geospatial Modeling

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Peatland Modeling

Nonproliferation Nuclear Engineer Postdoctoral Researcher

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Data Science for Advanced Manufacturing

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Composite Pipe Development

Postdoctoral Research Associate — HPC Confidential Computing and Secure Multi-tenancy

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Data Science for Materials Characterization

Postdoctoral Research Associate — HPC System Architecture and Intelligent Storage Design

Postdoctoral Researcher — Composites Manufacturing and Characterization

Postdoctoral Researcher — Lifecycle and Technoeconomic Analysis

Postdoctoral Research Associate — Organic and Critical Minerals Separation Chemist

POSTDOCTORAL OPENING
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Computational Solid Mechanics for Digital Cert/Qual
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Shear Strength of Ceramics
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Radiopharmaceutical Chelator Development
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Multifunctional Equipment Integration (Materials)
Distinguished Postdoctoral Research Associate — Science Engagement
Uranium Chemistry and Nuclear Forensics Postdoctoral Researcher

Be in touch with us at postdocrecruitment@ornl.gov.

Positions for Recent Graduates

ORNL has career opportunities for scientists, engineers, and others that are posted on a rolling basis. This snapshot (September 29, 2026) includes current listings suited to recent graduates. Listings show the minimum degree, or degree plus years of experience. Many positions that ask for a degree plus several years of experience will count graduate study toward those years, and some postings say so explicitly, so a new MS or PhD graduate may well be considered for a role that reads “BS plus 5.” Click any title below to go to its posting.

Even if there is not a current listing that fits your interest or graduation time, we strongly encourage you to join our Talent Community by creating an account at ornl.gov/careers and setting up a profile; these are actively used in filling our positions.

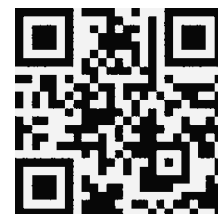
POSITION	MINIMUM DEGREE + YEARS
Advanced Nuclear Reactor and Fuel Cycle Engineer (Associate)	PhD
Advanced Nuclear Reactor and Fuel Cycle Engineer (Staff)	PhD plus 2–5
AI Security Systems Architect	MS plus 7–10, or PhD plus 2–4
Beam Instrumentation Physicist	PhD plus 2, or MS plus 3
Classified HPC Systems Engineer (Hybrid Eligible)	BS plus 5
Computational Fluid Dynamics Analyst	MS plus 2
Computational Magnetohydrodynamics Engineer	PhD
Contractor SAP Security Officer	BS plus 5
Cooling Systems Engineer	BS plus 5
Data Center Engineer	BS plus 5
Facility Engineer	BS plus 5
Gas Testing Engineer	BS plus 4
Geospatial Data Engineer II	BS or MS plus 5–7
HPC Cybersecurity Engineer	BS plus 5
HPC Engineer — System Acceptance and User Environment	BS plus 5, or MS plus 4, or PhD
HPC Network Engineer	BS plus 5

POSITION	MINIMUM DEGREE + YEARS
HPC Software Engineer	BS plus 5
Information Management and Protection Specialist	BS plus 6, or MS plus 4
Infrastructure Operations Center Systems Administrator	AS plus 5
Instrument Support Electrical Engineer	BS plus 5
Instrumentation and Control Systems Engineer (LabVIEW)	BS plus 5
Machine Design Engineer	BS plus 3
Maintenance Engineer at the High Flux Isotope Reactor	BS plus 5
Materials Characterization Laboratory Technical Professional	BS plus 1–2
Mechanical Design Engineer	BS plus 5
Mechanical Engineer	BS plus 5
Nuclear Materials and Supplier Integrator	BS/BA plus 5
Power Electronics Engineer	BS plus 5
Programs, Planning, and Partnerships Specialist	BS/BA plus 2
Quality Representative	BS/BA plus 5
R&D Staff Member in Manufacturing Robotics and Controls	PhD plus 2
Reliability Engineer – Electrical	BS/BA plus 5
Research Associate – Advanced Machining and Machine Tool Research Group	PhD, or MS plus 2
Research Associate – Grid Modeling	PhD plus 2
Research Computational Scientist	MS, or PhD
Research Operations Support Professional	BS
Research Scientist – Large-Scale Data Science and Learning	PhD
Research Software Engineer	BS plus 3
Scientific Associate II	BS plus 2
Software System Engineer	BS plus 5

All listings and additional career information are at ornl.gov/careers.

Distinguished Staff Fellowships

This extremely selective and prestigious opportunity for new scientific professionals has application windows in January, May, and September of each year. It is for recent STEM PhD graduates who will propose new lines of research in alignment with lab priorities. Use the QR code to get more information on this outstanding program. The September 2026 application window has been extended to run through October 16.



Fellowship
program

ORNL is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified candidates, including individuals with disabilities and protected veterans, are encouraged to apply. ORNL is an E-Verify employer. If you have difficulty using the online application system or need accommodation to apply due to a disability, please email ORNLRecruiting@ornl.gov.