OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

ORNL Opportunities

A newsletter of internships and jobs for new graduates

NOVEMBER 2026

ORNL New Web Site

In October, ORNL launched its new externally facing web site. If you are familiar with our old web site, you will see there are new navigation pathways. If you have trouble navigating to information you are used to finding, a direct Google search is often helpful. We have tried to update all the links in the Office of Research Education (ORE) literature, including this newsletter, but please forgive us if you find out-of-date links in literature that you've had for a while!

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 — Summer Season Has Opened

ORNL offers internships for undergraduates, recent grads, and graduate students. All internships at ORNL are paid and include a housing allowance for students living outside the immediate ORNL surroundings. 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.

Most undergraduates and recent graduates participate in fixed-term internships that take place over the summer, fall, or spring terms. Our two biggest internship programs for undergraduates and recent grads are both open for summer applications. They are the Science Undergraduate Laboratory Internships (SULI) and Research Student Internships (RSI). Non-research internships are available through the Technical and Professional Internships (TPI) program. Information about all current undergraduate internship opportunities is on our Undergraduate Student Opportunities web page.

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). GRO applications are processed on a rolling basis, and SCGSR offers two application windows per year, with the second 2026 window closing November 4. More information is on our Graduate Student Opportunities web page.

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.

7000+ Staff, representing 60+ nations

#1 World's most intense neutron source; world's first exascale computer

5000+ Guest researchers annually

1000+ Student interns annually

2,700+ FY25 journal publications

22 R&D 100 Awards in 2026, more than any other national laboratory

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
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Finding a mentor and the new mentor/project selection tool

All of our interns are selected individually by the mentor, and not some central committee. Therefore, we strongly advise everyone interested in an internship to reach out to potential mentors before or during the application process so they can already know you when it is time to make selections. We are organized into different directorates, each of which has Divisions, Sections, and then Groups, with Groups and Group Leaders being the closest equivalent to academic departments and their chairs. Group Leaders can be a very good level to reach out to, because they will know not only about their own work but that of several other scientists in their group.

The educational programs web page has resources to help you locate and talk to a mentor at ornl.gov/find-a-mentor. We suggest three ways of finding mentors to reach out to and give advice there on how to write a top-notch email to our scientists to introduce yourself:

- Use impact.ornl.gov, a Google-like tool that will give you the Profiles of individuals and the names of Groups that are involved in your area of interest.
- Write a few sentences describing your research interest and ask your favorite AI tool (e.g., ChatGPT or Claude) for names of individuals and Groups to reach out to at ORNL.
- Use our new mentor discovery tool.

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

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.

Virtual Internship Fair

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 Opportunities at ORNL	Thursday, November 5, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	**Register ›**
Graduate Opportunities at ORNL	Tuesday, November 10, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	**Register ›**
Tips and Strategies for a Successful Application	Wednesday, November 11, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	**Register ›**
ORE Office Hours	Tuesday, November 24, 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET	**Register ›**
Undergraduate Opportunities at ORNL	Thursday, December 3, 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 Summer 2027 are currently open.

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 Summer 2027 are now open.

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. The 2027 Solicitation 1 will be due in May 2027 for start dates from November 2027 through March 2028.

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 October 30, 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 for Quantum Computing
Postdoctoral Research Associate — AI for Lab Operations
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Optical Spectroscopy
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Grid Modeling
Postdoctoral Research Associate — AI and CFD
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Quantum Optics and Bioimaging
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Photonic Quantum Sensing and Computing
Postdoctoral Research Associate — MPEX Boundary and PMI Modeling
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Scanning Probe Microscopy for Ultrafast Charge Dynamics

POSTDOCTORAL OPENING
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Organic Synthetic Chemist
Postdoctoral Plasma-Facing Component Scientist
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Robotics and Navigation
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Advanced Reactor Core Materials Characterization
Alston S. Householder Fellowship: Mathematics and Scientific Computing
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Biopolymer-Derived Ionic Materials and Interfaces
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Nonlinear Spectroscopy in Chemical Separations
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Natural Gas Infrastructure Resilience
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Fungal Systems and Genetics
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Quantum Algorithms
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Modeling, Control, and AI for Thermal Systems
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Electrochemist
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Natural Gas Infrastructure Resilience
Postdoc — PLD synthesis of thin film heterostructures and twisted oxide quantum materials
Postdoctoral Research Associate in AI-Enabled Connected Vehicles and Smart Mobility Systems
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Organometallic Synthetic Chemist
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Atomistic Machine Learning
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Data Science for Advanced Manufacturing
Postdoctoral Research Associate — HPC System Architecture and Intelligent Storage Design
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Data Science for Materials Characterization
Postdoctoral Research Associate — HPC Confidential Computing and Secure Multi-tenancy
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Modeling reaction chemistry in condensed phase systems
Postdoctoral Researcher — Composites Manufacturing & Characterization
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Computational Solid Mechanics for Digital Cert/Qual
Postdoctoral Researcher — Lifecycle & Technoeconomic Analysis
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Materials Processing Group
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Lattice Quantum Chromodynamics
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Shear Strength of Ceramics
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Supramolecular Chemistry and Ion Separations
Postdoctoral Research Associate — Neuromorphic Computing

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 (October 30, 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
Automation Bioengineer	PhD, or MS plus 5
Civil Engineer	BS plus 5
HPC Engineer — System Acceptance and User Environment	BS plus 5, or MS plus 4, or PhD
Linux Engineer (Classified Environment)	BS plus 5
R&D Assistant — Natural Gas Infrastructure Resilience	MS
R&D Associate — Economics	PhD plus 2
R&D Associate — Robotics and Navigation	PhD plus 2
R&D Staff Member in Manufacturing Robotics and Controls	PhD plus 2
Reliability Engineer — Electrical	BS plus 2
Research & Development Associate — Probing Structure Evolution in Manufactured Biomaterials	PhD plus 3
Research and Development Associate — Verification Technologies	MS or PhD plus 2
Research Associate — Grid Modeling	PhD plus 2
Research Scientist — Applications of Quantum HPC Systems	PhD
Structural Engineer — US ITER Project	BS plus 5
Technical Professional — Better Plants Diagnostic Equipment Program	BS plus 0–2

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. The next application window will be in January 2027. Read more about this exciting opportunity at ornl.gov/early-career-research/distinguished-staff-fellowships.

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.