MATE Internship Program
2019 Update

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Internship Coordinator

with MacKenzie Smith, 2019 MATE Intern

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Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center
Internship Program Overview

• MATE Internship Program started with a NSF/UNOLS grant in 1999

• Help meet demand for multi-skilled marine technicians

• Provide opportunities for mentoring/training by marine technicians working on science missions aboard research vessels

• Over 360 interns placed; over 200 on UNOLS vessels

• Currently funded by NSF Grant ending April, 2021

• Funding for each year,
  • 1 long-term (6 month) and
  • 12-15 short-term (2-16 week) internships
  • Between April – November

• Support available to lengthen each internship
What the community gains

**Hosts/Mentors:**
- Extra help on board, enthusiastic, eager to learn
- Direct involvement training next generation of marine technicians
- Preview of best graduates from marine technology programs for hiring!
- UNOLS Fleet uses Internship Program to recruit new talent

**Interns:**
- Job experience essential for employment, often the most important step; with best role models
- Better understand the diversity of ocean careers
- Hands-on experience with cutting-edge technologies not available at educational institutions
MATE Internship Alumni Survey

• How did internship contribute to career development?

• 91 respondents; 90% employed in STEM field; over 50% hold positions in Marine Technology at:
  • WHOI, SCRIPPS, USCG, USCG, SKIO, UW, OSU, UHAWAII, UDEL, NOAA, MBARI, and more

• 90% claim internship was a major contributing factor in:
  • Obtaining employment
  • Being accepted into educational program
  • Receiving scholarship or other award

• Respondents believe internship helped them:
  • Decide career path
  • Develop professionally (experience, skills, contacts)
  • Gain valuable, marketable skills to compete in the workforce
“I credit my internship as the foundation of my current career. It provided me with industry connections, hands-on experience, and confidence in my ability to work in this environment. I love my job as a marine technician.”

“My current career could not have been possible without this internship. It got my foot in the door and allowed me to meet the crew at the university I now work for. Without the MATE internship, I would not have discovered this unique field.”

“Considering that my mentor offered me a job, I would say my internship directly shot me into my career. I developed certain skills that increased my chances of being offered a job. The opportunities received to work hands on made it much easier for me to learn the job as opposed to reading it out of a book or in a classroom setting.”

“My experience is without a doubt educational. Everyday I learn something new that is part of a seagoing technician’s career. I feel confident that by the end of this internship I will have the knowledge I need to continue my career as a Marine Technician.”
2019 At-Sea Internships

Emily Cheung – Long-term Internship (6 months)
Hosted by University of Washington

R/V Rachel Carson

R/V Thomas G. Thompson
2019 At-Sea Internships

Kylie Pasternak
7 weeks
Hosted by WHOI
R/V Atlantis
w/ Alvin Team

Sebastian DiGeronimo
6 weeks
Hosted by UDEL
R/V Hugh Sharp

Shaun Teter
6 weeks
Hosted by UDEL
R/V Hugh Sharp
2019 At-Sea Internships

Lila Ardor Bellucci, Jacob Cooper, and Ella Cedarholm
Hosted by UHAWAII/WHOI, R/V Neil Armstrong (6 weeks)
2019 At-Sea Internships

Emma Shannon and Sydney Wewerka
Hosted by BIOS, R/V Atlantic Explorer (9 weeks)
2019 At-Sea Internships

Hosted by UCSD SCRIPPS with STARC on the USCGC Healy

Amitav Mitra
6 weeks

MacKenzie Smith
6 weeks

Alexander Sidelev
10 weeks
Intern selection process

• Consider hosting interns in 2020

• Complete online host form (more info + link coming)

• Candidates carefully matched to host’s requirements
  • Summer internships - host receives application responses of 3-5 applicants that best match mission needs
  • Long-term internship – MATE/UNOLS review applicants, determine top finalists and provide host for selection

• Host encouraged to interview candidates
  • Host makes final selection
  • MATE checks references, makes offer, handles travel logistics

• After – please complete post-internship host surveys

• Continue to use internship to promote marine technical careers

• You are great mentors and role models - THANK YOU!
Any Questions?

For more information visit:
www.marinetech.org/internships

Check out the MATE Internship Blog
www.marinetech.org/internships-blog/

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