

Opportunity Title: Collaborative Hypersonic And Missile Defense Research Internship

Opportunity Reference Code: AFIT-2025-0020

Organization U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)

Reference Code AFIT-2025-0020

How to Apply Click on *Apply* at the bottom of the opportunity to start your application.

Description The Air Force Institute of Technology is offering internships in Collaborative Hypersonic and Missile Defense Research at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

What will I be doing?

You will join a community of scientists and researchers in an effort to research missile defense.

In this project the participants will experience hands-on learning with AFIT Graduate School of Engineering and Management Faculty in Hypersonic Vehicle development by participating in the configuration of new geometries in CAD; modeling and simulating the vehicle response to aerodynamic, structural, and thermal loading conditions; and conducting physical experiments for validation. Computer packages such as ABAQUS, NASTRAN, CAPS, MatLab, DAKOTA, CFL3D, FUN3D, etc. will be utilized for data generation, post-processing and response interpretation.

Why should I apply?

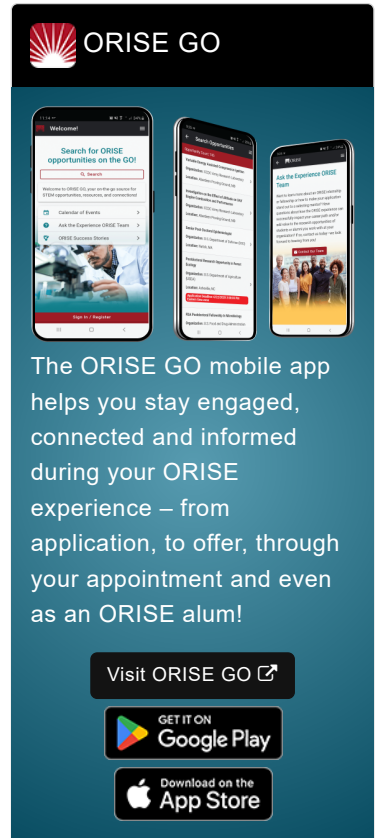
Under the guidance of a mentor, you will gain hands-on experience to complement your education and support your academic and professional goals. Along the way, you will engage in activities and research in several areas. These include, but are not limited to:

- Learn how to predict the vehicle response under multiple flight paths, maneuvers, and load conditions
- Participate in determining the vehicle's sustainability and resilience through the computation of stresses, deflections, and buckling resistance
- Participate in computing the aerodynamic pressures using computational fluid dynamics (CFD)
- Gain experience in analyzing vehicle stability and resilience under extreme operating conditions (e.g., high temperature operating conditions, vehicle response to various heat transfer modes)
- Define the associated uncertainties in mission, vehicle geometry, and material variabilities
- Enhance skills in developing optimized vehicle configurations for shape, size, and topology aspects of hypersonic mission
- Consider aerodynamic, thermal, and structural performance requirements in a multidisciplinary optimization environment
- Study the newly developed configurations and consider manufacturability issues for high temperature materials
- Participate in wind tunnel experiments for representative Mach numbers and vehicle maneuver conditions for validating the prototypes
- Document the findings and periodically present the research to other DoD Scientists and Engineers

Where will I be located? Dayton, Ohio


What is the anticipated start date?


The Air Force Institute of Technology reviews and selects applicants on a rolling basis. Exact start dates will be determined at the time of selection and in coordination with the selected candidate.




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Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis and internships will be filled as qualified candidates are identified.

Appointment Length

This appointment is a twelve-month research appointment, with the possibility to be renewed for additional research periods. Appointments may be extended depending on funding availability, project assignment, program rules, and availability of the participant.

What are the appointment provisions?

Participants will receive a stipend to be determined by **AFIT**. Stipends are typically based on the participant's academic standing, discipline, experience, and research facility location. Other provisions may include the following:

- Health Insurance Supplement. *Participants are eligible to purchase health insurance through ORISE.*
- Relocation Allowance
- Training and Travel Allowance

About AFIT

The mission of the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) is to help build America's airpower, by educating military and civilian Airmen to innovatively accomplish the Air Force's core missions, in support of joint operations, more effectively, efficiently, sustainably and affordably. We provide unique defense-focused, research-enabled, multi-disciplinary advanced academic education, as well as globally delivering career-long, action-based, functional professional continuing education, over a continuum of learning, on-command and on-demand. Our success is measured by the career-long contributions of our graduates, faculty and staff. AFIT accomplishes this mission through four schools: the Graduate School of Engineering and Management, the School of Systems and Logistics, the Civil Engineer School, and the School of Strategic Force Studies. To learn more about the research performed at AFIT, please visit www.afit.edu.

About ORISE

This program, administered by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) through its contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), was established through an interagency agreement between DOE and DoD. Participants do not enter into an employee/employer relationship with ORISE, ORAU, DoD or any other office or agency. Instead, you will be affiliated with ORISE for the administration of the appointment through the ORISE appointment letter and Terms of Appointment. Proof of health insurance is required for participation in this program. Health insurance can be obtained through ORISE. For more information, visit the [ORISE Research Participation Program at the U.S. Department of Defense](#).

Qualifications The qualified applicant will hold or be currently pursuing a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree in a STEM field.

Application Requirements

A complete application consists of:

- Zintellect Profile

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- Educational and Employment History
- Essay Questions (goals, experiences, and skills relevant to the opportunity)
- Resume (PDF)
- Transcripts/Academic Records - Please upload a copy of a transcript for your current or most recent degree program that meets the disciplinary qualifications of the opportunity. [Click here for detailed information about acceptable transcripts.](#)
- One Recommendation. We encourage you to contact your recommender(s) as soon as you start your application to ensure they are able to complete the recommendation form and to let them know to expect a message from Zintellect. Recommenders will be asked to rate your scientific capabilities, personal characteristics, and describe how they know you. You can always log back in to your Zintellect account and check the status of your application.

If you have questions, send an email to AIRFORCE@orise.orau.gov. Please list the reference code of this opportunity AFIT-2025-0020 in the subject line of the email. Please understand that ORISE does not review applications or select applicants; selections are made by the sponsoring agency identified on this opportunity. All application materials should be submitted via the "Apply" button at the bottom of this opportunity listing. Please do not send application materials to the email address above.

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Point of Contact [Leslie](#)

Eligibility • **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only

Requirements • **Degree:** Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, or Doctoral Degree received within the last 60 months or currently pursuing.

- **Discipline(s):**
 - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** ([12](#))
 - **Communications and Graphics Design** ([2](#))
 - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** ([16](#))
 - **Earth and Geosciences** ([21](#))
 - **Engineering** ([29](#))
 - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** ([14](#))
 - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** ([45](#))
 - **Mathematics and Statistics** ([10](#))
 - **Other Non-Science & Engineering** ([2](#))
 - **Physics** ([16](#))
 - **Science & Engineering-related** ([1](#))
 - **Social and Behavioral Sciences** ([27](#))