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Opportunity Title: DOE EM Success Through Academic Research Scholarship (STARS)
Opportunity Reference Code: DOE-EM-STARS-2027

Organization U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Reference Code DOE-EM-STARS-2027

How to Apply Click on Apply below to start your application today!

Application Deadline 11/1/2026 11:59:00 PM Eastern Time Zone

Description

Are you interested in becoming an EM STARS participant?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) Success Through Academic Research Scholarship (STARS) program provides opportunities for undergraduate students from qualifying institutions pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) that supports the EM research and operations in the following areas: Soil & Groundwater; Deactivation & Decommissioning; Tank Waste; Robotics; Machine Learning; Artificial Intelligence; Cybersecurity; and Advanced Manufacturing.

Are you interested in learning more about the EM STARS program and application process?

Information Sessions:

- Monday, August 17 from 2-3:30pm ET: View recording here
- Friday, September 4 from 12-1:15pm ET: View recording here
- Thursday, October 8 from 2-3:15pm ET: View recording here
- Tuesday, October 20 from 12-1:15pm ET: View recording here

Application Workshops:

- Friday, September 25 from 12-1:30pm ET: View recording here
- Friday, October 23 from 12-1:30pm ET: View recording here

Applicant Drop-Ins:

Feel free to stop by and chat with ORISE staff regarding any questions about eligibility or application requirements. Pre-registration is not required. Attendees will be admitted one at a time in the order they enter the waiting room.

Click Here to Join Drop-Ins

- Monday, October 26 from 12-3pm ET
- Tuesday, October 27 from 12-3pm ET
- Wednesday, October 28 from 1-4pm ET
- Thursday, October 29 from 2-4pm ET
- Friday, October 30 from 9-11am and 1-3pm ET

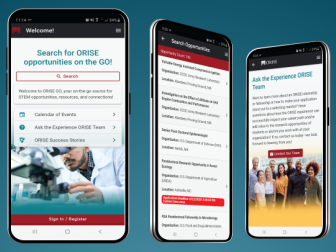
Why should I apply?

You will receive:

- Financial support for the pursuit of an undergraduate degree for up to two years and two additional years for students choosing to pursue a

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master's degree
- Paid summer internships under the guidance of an accomplished mentor at EM headquarter offices, field offices, or DOE national laboratories
- Opportunities to engage with the EM community (e.g., EM field sites, contractors, stakeholders) and other STARS participants
- Academic and career guidance
- Continued engagement with EM after graduation through employment opportunities or postgraduate appointments

Financial Support

- Tuition Scholarship: up to $36,000/academic year *(Amount is based on expected average cost. The tuition allowance may be higher based on student's actual tuition costs.)*
- Stipend: $32,000/academic year
- Education Allowance: $5,000/scholarship year
- Summer Internship: 10-week internship
  - Stipend: $750/week
  - Housing Allowance: up to $700/week based on assigned location *(If relocating more than fifty miles from assigned location)*
  - Local Transportation: $50/week
  - Inbound/Outbound: up to $1,000 *(If relocating more than fifty miles from assigned location)*

NOTE: Charges for optional, refundable and penalty fees (such as late registration), meal plans, books and housing are not covered by the award. The stipend during the academic term is meant to offset the cost of these expenses.

Scholarship Description

EM STARS provides undergraduate students at qualifying institutions with up to two years of financial support while they work toward their undergraduate degree. If participants decide to pursue a master's degree, the program will support them for up to two more years. While participants pursue their degrees, they'll get hands-on experience through transformational internships with the EM team at one of their sites. Through the internship opportunities, participants will learn about EM, get to see how EM tackles big challenges, and gain real-world skills that connect directly to their studies.

EM STARS aims to help participants graduate with a strong understanding of EM's mission and be highly prepared to join the EM workforce. After completing the program, EM expects participants apply, and if selected, join the EM team as a full-time employee for a number of years equal to the year of their time in the program. Alternatively, if participants plan to go straight into a master's degree after the completion of their undergraduate degree, the program will provide continued support for up to two more years. During this time, participants will participate in up to two additional summer internships with EM.

EM STARS is an investment in the future of it's participants - and in return, EM requires that

participants meet program requirements and pursue future employment with EM or an affiliated program after graduation. Participants who choose not to pursue employment with EM or an approved affiliated program after graduation will be expected to repay up to 100% of the program fees.

Review of Applications

Student applications will be evaluated based on academic merit, enrollment in STEM coursework, extracurricular activities (e.g., teams, clubs, and relevant work experience), recommendation, interest in STEM, and an interest in the DOE EM mission.

Nature of Appointment

Participants will not enter into an employee/employer relationship with ORISE, ORAU, DOE, EM, EM STARS or the hosting site. Instead, participants will be affiliated with ORISE for the administration of the appointment through the ORISE appointment letter and *Terms of Appointment.*

Questions

Please email the EM STARS team at EM_STARS@orise.orau.gov or visit our website at: https://orise.orau.gov/em-stars/.

Qualifications **Applicants must meet the following requirements:**

- Be a U.S. citizen at the time of application (proof of citizenship will be required as part of the onboarding process).
- Be 18 years of age by May 31, 2027.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.
- Be enrolled as an undergraduate student at a qualifying institution during the 2026-2027 academic year. Accredited U.S. postsecondary institutions that meet the statutory criteria for identification as qualifying institutions by the Department of Education can be found here.
- Have completed two full years towards an undergraduate degree by the start of the program and are planning to graduate between May 2029 - December 2029. *Students who have completed more than two years towards their undergraduate degree may only be considered if they have completed an internship with EM since May 2025.*
- Pursuing a STEM degree in a discipline that supports EM research and operations. EM has a wide array of critical needs, ranging from technical expertise and skilled trades to STEM research. Important areas of research include soil & groundwater, deactivation & decommissioning, tank waste, robotics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing.

Additional Information

- Two years of undergraduate education is defined as the equivalent of four semesters or six trimesters. Academic terms do not need to be

continuous.
- If applicant has attended multiple academic institutions, the current institution must be a qualifying institution and have accepted the appropriate number of transfer credits to be classified as a third-year student by the start of the program.
- Undergraduate students intending to graduate before May 2029 are not eligible.
- If pursuing an associate's degree, applicant must have an intention to pursue a bachelor's degree at a qualifying institution. Prior to acceptance into the program, the applicant must be accepted and show proof of enrollment.
- Summer internships typically begin the first week of June and end the first week of August. Participants are expected to be fully engaged on-site for the duration of the summer internship. Not all academic calendars may align with the requirements of the program.

A complete application consists of:

- Zintellect Profile
- Academic Institution Classification
- Program Specific Questions (Character limits – three hundred words)
  - Why does this opportunity interest you and how will it impact your educational and professional goals in relation to possible future employment with the DOE Office of Environmental Management? How will this scholarship impact your academic or career pathway (beyond financial support)?
  - Describe your relevant research, technical, or professional skills and experience that apply to this opportunity and the work that is done in the DOE EM.
  - Describe how your interest in STEM has shaped who you are, led you on your current academic/career journey, and prepared you to fulfill the scholarship requirements of EM STARS. You may include a description of any extra-curricular activities in which you have participated (e.g., clubs, teams, camps, mentoring, jobs, internships, etc.).
  - What aspect of the EM STARS and DOE EM mission/program appears most relevant to your interests?
  - This is a workforce development program specific to DOE EM. Do you have a long-term goal to be employed by DOE EM? If yes, are you willing to commit to being placed in a location based on EM priorities to fulfill the program requirements and your continued engagement requirement for the number of years the EM STARS program supports you in your academic endeavors?
- Select your top three research areas of interest in relation to the DOE EM Mission: Soil & Groundwater; Deactivation & Decommissioning; Tank Waste; Robotics; Machine Learning; Artificial Intelligence; Cybersecurity; Advanced Manufacturing. Preferences will be taken into consideration when matching applicants with available projects.
- Resume including the following sections in no particular order. An

example of an academic resume can be found at https://orise.orau.gov/zintellect-files/files/EM-MSIPP-STARS-Academic-Resume-CV-Sample.pdf.
  - Profile
  - Educational Summary
  - Academic and Research Experience: Recent positions held, including length of employment, hours worked, and location.
  - Awards and Scholarships: Recent accolades, including source, length, and summary of benefits.
  - Community Service & Extracurricular Activities: List service and/or extracurricular activities in which applicants have participated, beginning with the most recent.
  - Special Skills and Abilities: List professional/technical skills and abilities that are relevant to this program.
- Academic Records: A copy of an official or unofficial transcript or copies of the academic records from internal institutional systems may be submitted. Transcript or academic records must clearly show the name of the student, name of the academic institution, enrollment as of Fall 2026, in progress / completed / enrolled courses, grades, most recent cumulative GPA, and degree in progress as of Fall 2026. Academic records must include undergraduate courses and grades for the equivalent of two years. Applicants may combine academic records into one document if they have attended multiple academic institutions. Please provide all transcripts for institutions you have attended and are using to show credits for this application. Selected candidates must provide proof of enrollment during the Spring 2027 term.
- One recommendation from a faculty member or academic advisor at the institution where the student is currently attending. The recommendation should address the student's academic record and potential for success such as demonstrated intellectual merit, communication, and teamwork skills. Recommenders will be asked to submit a recommendation in Zintellect. Letters of recommendation submitted via email will not be accepted. Your recommendation must be submitted by **Sunday, November 8, 2026.**

Contact us at EM_STARS@orise.orau.gov if you have any questions. Please list the reference code [DOE-EM-STARS-2027] for this opportunity in the subject line of your email.

Point of Contact Alecia

Eligibility Requirements

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizen Only
- **Degree:** Currently pursuing an Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree.
- **Minimum Overall GPA:** 3.00
- **Discipline(s):**
  - **Chemistry and Materials Sciences** (12 👁)
  - **Computer, Information, and Data Sciences** (17 👁)
  - **Earth and Geosciences** (21 👁)

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  - **Engineering** (28 👁)
  - **Environmental and Marine Sciences** (14 👁)
  - **Life Health and Medical Sciences** (16 👁)
  - **Mathematics and Statistics** (11 👁)
  - **Physics** (16 👁)
  - **Science & Engineering-related** (2 👁)
- **Age:** Must be 18 years old by 5/31/2027