# Opportunities for Non-U.S. Citizens in NASA's International Internship Program



Non-U.S. citizens face limitations when pursuing federal government jobs, typically requiring U.S. citizenship for competitive service positions. However, opportunities exist within excepted service positions or through programs like NASA's international internship program. Since 2014, NASA has offered internships to students from 15 partner nations and the International Space University. This year, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, students from Sweden, South Korea, Norway, and Ireland are participating.

The interns work at NASA’s Ames Research Center in California and the Johnson Space Center in Texas. Past participants have contributed to projects like the "Astrobee" robots on the International Space Station. The program is considered mutually beneficial, providing students with valuable experience while offering NASA international perspectives. Each partner country funds its students' participation, adhering to NASA's Space Act of 1958. About 5% of participants return to NASA as contractors.

New cohorts start in June, with students from New Zealand, Sweden, South Korea, and Israel joining. NASA's intern selection process is rigorous, with each country hosting competitions for these coveted spots. The cooperation aims to foster international collaboration in space technology and exploration.