

**Student Intern F.A.Q.**

1. What is the difference between a student intern and a special visiting research student?

Many departments are aware of the category “special visiting research student” and wonder what the difference is between that, and the student intern.

Both categories may only be filled by foreign nationals enrolled in undergraduate or graduate level study at institutions abroad, and the internship or research performed by the student in either category must be related to their current fields of study. However there are a few key differences between the student intern and the special visiting research student, as illustrated in the table below.

	<b>Student Intern</b>	<b>Special Visiting Research Student</b>
<b>Hours Per Week</b>	Min 32 hours/week	Max 20 hours/week
<b>Funding Source</b>	Any funding source, including 100% personal funds	Majority of funding must come from third party (not personal funds)
<b>Length of Stay</b>	Max 1 year	Max 2 years
<b>Forms involved</b>	DS-2019 and DS-7002	DS-2019

Another useful method of determining between the two categories is to have the prospective visitor complete [Intern Verification Form](#), available on the Center website. If the answers are “true” or “yes” to all of the points on page one of this form, then he or she would be considered a student intern.

2. What are examples of work experiences student interns would perform?

Internships can reflect one of two basic concepts: the project based internship or the research based internship. Read on for an example of each.

In the **project based internship**, the student intern must use the knowledge and skills that directly relate to his or her course of study at the home institution, and apply them to a project in a Rutgers department, center or institute. For example, let us say Meenal Shah is pursuing a master’s degree in computer science at a university in India, and she wants to gain some programming experience through an internship. Meanwhile at Rutgers, the Graduate School of Education wants to develop a new web application that can be used to track students’ field experience in teaching. Professor

James from the GSE might have a contact in India, and be able to connect with Meenal regarding her skills and interest. The two could agree on a project based internship during which Meenal would help design and implement a program for the GSE at Rutgers. Dr. James would be designated as the “sponsoring professor” and would be responsible for completing the Form DS-7002 for Meenal. He would also be required to mentor and provide a written evaluation of her performance on the project.

In the **research based internship**, the student intern must still use the knowledge and skills being developed in his or her current field of study (or in a directly related field) at the home institution. The student intern would then apply this knowledge and skill to a research assignment in a Rutgers department, center or institute. For example, let us say Pierre DeClerq is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering at a university in France, and he wants to gain research experience in a lab during his internship. Meanwhile in the Rutgers School of Engineering, Professor Adams has a working group in her lab tackling problems directly related to Pierre DeClerq’s studies. While on sabbatical in Paris, Dr. Adams meets Pierre’s academic advisor, and makes a connection with Pierre. She agrees to supervise a research experience for him in her lab. The research might involve learning new techniques and equipment, running computer simulations, studying current research and theory in the field, and/or testing new hypotheses. Dr. Adams would be designated as the “sponsoring professor” and would be responsible for completing the Form DS-7002 for Pierre. She would also be required to provide a written evaluation of his performance on the research assignment.

3. Can student interns take courses as a part of their program?

Yes, student interns can take courses as part of their program, and receive credit for those courses. Tuition and fees would apply. Courses should be discussed prior to the student intern’s arrival and incorporated into the Trainee/Internship Placement Plan (Form DS-7002) by the sponsoring professor.

If a student intern wishes to take an avocational course outside the scope of his or her internship, he or she is permitted to do so, as long as the intern is maintaining the program outlined in the Form DS-7002, and is making satisfactory progress.

4. Can student interns be paid?

Yes, student interns can be paid or unpaid. If a Rutgers department, center, or institute wishes to pay a student intern, they may employ the visitor only as a Type 5 student (no benefits).

5. Who can I contact to discuss my questions about the new student information category?

More information is available on our Center website at [www.globalservices.rutgers.edu](http://www.globalservices.rutgers.edu). Additionally, our International Student and Scholar Advisors are able to answer questions that may arise regarding this new category. You may contact Carissa McCarthy at [carissam@gaiacenters.rutgers.edu](mailto:carissam@gaiacenters.rutgers.edu)