



Our Scholars Say...

“NSSP provided a tremendous amount of value for a relatively minor time commitment and put me in an excellent position to reinforce my classroom experience in a real-world setting surrounded by some of the industry’s leading technological minds”

~ Johns Hopkins University, ManTech intern

“I can say with confidence that I have a much more focused view on what I would like to accomplish with my future career, and with the connections I have made through NSSP I am confident that I will be able to do so with ease.”

~ Loyola University Maryland, Raytheon intern

“It is a little difficult signing onto the program with all of the uncertainty that lies ahead of acceptance but it was wholly worth it. With not applying for a specific position, I feel like I was able to be placed in a workplace that suited my skill set, while also expanding it beyond what I had previously imagined. The process itself is daunting, as it should be, but the outcome is definitely worth the wait.”

~ Hood College, Northrup Gruman intern

The National Security Scholars Program (NSSP) is an exclusive program only available through the Independent College Fund of Maryland (the I-Fund) to full-time undergraduates attending one of the following member colleges and universities:

- Capitol Technology University
- Goucher College
- Hood College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Loyola University Maryland
- McDaniel College
- Mount St. Mary’s University
- Notre Dame of Maryland University
- St. John’s College
- Stevenson University
- Washington Adventist University
- Washington College

For more information, please contact
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National Security Scholars Program



the National Security Agency





“Prior to this internship I had barely even heard of the Intelligence Community much less thought about working in it. Now I can’t imagine working anywhere else. I would have never been exposed to this line of work if it hadn’t been for this internship and I am incredibly thankful that I was lucky enough to be selected for the NSSP.”

~ McDaniel College, Lockheed Martin intern

Overview

Protecting our nation’s most critical assets from hazards—both internal and external, natural and man-made—makes the national security field a vital focus for the future. Cyber security, in particular, is one area posing complex challenges for the world today. It underpins almost every facet of modern society and provides critical support for the U.S. economy, civil infrastructure, public safety, and national security. Information technology has transformed the global economy and connected people in ways never imagined.

Responding to the needs of the national security industry, the Independent College Fund of Maryland (the I-Fund) helps develop a workforce prepared to handle the many aspects of protecting businesses through its National Security Scholars Program (NSSP). The I-Fund links students interested in serving their country with defense industry giants through the NSSP. The program provides a unique opportunity for scholars to explore a future in the field of national security and offers a road map to potential employment upon graduation.

Return on Investment

Just 10% of program donations are maintained for administrative costs—with 90% allocated directly to students.

Program Benefits for Partners

- Fully cleared interns (TS-SCI with full scope poly)
- Direct access to I-Fund member campuses
- Increased visibility of mission and opportunities for employment
- Distinct pipeline of highly-differentiated, mission-focused interns
- Tangible impact on qualified employees entering national security field
- Interns hired in the Industry Alliance

Program Benefits for Scholars

- Paid internship opportunities with defense and intelligence industry partners
- Assistance with processing toward a valuable national security clearance
- Scholarships sent directly to an I-Fund member college or university for the academic year following the year in which application is submitted

Candidate Eligibility

- Must be a U.S. citizen at time of application
- Must be a full-time undergraduate attending an I-Fund member college or university
- Must be a sophomore or junior with a minimum of 24 credit hours at October application deadline
- Must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Must have a career interest in the national security field
- Must submit signed application and supporting documents by deadline
- Must be available for an in-person interview on November 14 or 15 (check www.micua.org/nssp for more information)
- Must successfully complete security clearance process by May 15
- Must be willing to accept a paid summer internship with a program partner

To Apply

Interested candidates should visit micua.org/nssp.

TIMELINE

September-October

- *Campus presentations*
- *Open application process*

October-November

- *Close application process*
- *NSSP Board meets mid-October for initial screening of applications to identify candidates invited to interview*
- *In-person interviews over two days in early November to include selection of semi-finalists*

December-May

- *Program semi-finalists notified and prescreened via phone by NSA representative*
- *Successful candidates directed to complete and submit long form by December date*
- *Security clearance process ongoing with clearance approval deadline of May 15*
- *Intern sponsors prioritize intern candidates for placement*
- *Internship matches assigned by mid-May*

June-August

- *Scholarship award notification made by early June*
- *Internships served*
- *Annual NSSP dinner in June for NSSP Scholars and Program Partners*
- *Website and collateral materials updated*

Visit www.micua.org/nssp