

share your **expertise**

Become a Mentor!



- Gain valuable student contributions to your projects and research
- See your discipline through an excited student's eyes
- Work with students historically underrepresented in your field
- Provide a professional development opportunity for your team
- Create a positive link between your organization and the community

Give the next generation of scientists the skills, professional experience, and confidence to pursue a career in science or engineering today!



Accepting summer internship descriptions throughout the fall and winter.

Contact ASE for more information:

Call 503.200.5861

Email ase@saturdayacademy.org

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saturdayacademy.org/be-mentor

potential mentor frequently asked questions

What do ASE interns do?

ASE interns can focus on a single project or responsibility over the whole summer, or may work on a series of related programs within the same organization or work group. Each position provides interns with an opportunity to contribute to a mentor's project, gain experience in a STEM-related profession, and present the summer's learning at the August Symposium. Beyond those requirements, ASE interns take on an enormous breadth of roles, including freshwater mussel surveys, programming applications for Android, and research and development for rooftop car-racks.

What's the difference between an internship and a job?

One of the most important differences, and a driving value behind our programs, is that interns should both contribute to and learn from the work of their mentor. Some roles that might seem monotonous or unsuited to a grad student or staff person can become a great opportunity for a student to build an 'entry level' skill in a professional, scientific environment, provided that those responsibilities are balanced with resources to understand the deeper processes and applications at play.

Who matches applicants with mentors?

One thing that makes ASE unique among internship programs is that both applicants and mentors can rank each other, creating a matching process that's unique to each internship. After submitting a position description, mentors let ASE staff know what knowledge, skills, and abilities they're looking for in interns; ASE students can then apply to specific positions. After a basic screening process, ASE then forwards all applicants to mentor teams. Mentors may interview or request work samples from students prior to ranking candidates for their positions. The final matching process aims to match mentors' most highly-ranked students with those students' most highly-ranked positions.

I don't know if I want to work with high schoolers - aren't they awfully young?

ASE applicants are young, but given the competitive nature of the program- with about a 1 in 5 chance of an applicant getting an internship, and mentors' ability to design their own positions and identify top candidates - we are very confident that the positions will be successful. Applicants have typically gone 'above and beyond' a typical high school curriculum to learn programming or technical skills on their own, and bring that approach to the internships.

What does an internship cost mentor organizations and why do they pay a fee?

As a non-profit organization, Saturday Academy relies on grants and contributions in order to operate. ASE asks mentors to contribute \$3,500 per intern to offset program costs and to provide a stipend for their student intern. Check our website for a breakdown of the fee distribution. The fee allows ASE to work with students and schools throughout Oregon, and to handle the recruitment and application process, human resource and hiring costs, and insurance for all students. If the fee creates a barrier to your participating, please let us know; we can help identify possible internal and external revenue sources.

What if my organization can't afford the fee?

Most ASE Mentors- about 60%- fund internships with support from their own organizations. However, some research institutions, small start-ups or nonprofits, are challenged to provide the full \$3,500 fee. ASE is happy to provide letters of collaboration or support for grant proposals and supplemental requests. If you would like us to provide a letter, please send us the name of the funding organization, your grant title, a brief description of your grant proposal, the number of interns for which you are requesting funding and the funding level (total dollar amount). It is helpful to request the letter at least two weeks in advance of the grant deadline.

Does a mentor's company have to provide insurance and safety equipment?

While ASE provides liability insurance, all ASE mentors are required to provide a safe working environment for their students.

How can I learn more about becoming a mentor?

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have a position description in mind, please contact Maura Hand, ASE Coordinator, at maura@saturdayacademy.org or 503.200.5860