



Entering the National Security Arena

HOW TO START YOUR CAREER IN NATIONAL SECURITY AND SECURE YOUR IDEAL INTERNSHIP OR ENTRY-LEVEL POSITION

WHITEHAWK CEC, INC

“The general guidance that I always give young professionals, seeking their first entry level position or those looking for an exciting career transition to the National Security Community is **apply, apply, apply** - for all internships or initial positions that remotely relate to your areas of interest and qualifications. Internships let you explore and experience – ruling in or ruling out an area, giving you time to get an initial security clearance.

Initial professional positions are not meant to be perfect for you – they provide an entre point, initial experience and help to rule things in or out.

So apply, apply, apply (no kidding 50, 100 times) for internships or initial positions to all specialties you are even remotely interested in. Always keeping in mind:

- 1) You don't know what you don't know – you want to have at least 2 internships, to rule things in and rule things out.
- 2) You want a combination of work you are passionate about and that you think you have the skillsets or proclivity for.
- 3) You want to have a minimum of over 50 applications – so that you can have as many conversations as possible.
- 4) You never know who will alight on you and what team or mission you will click with.
- 5) Try things that are a stretch for you – you might love it!
- 6) Don't get discouraged by not hearing back or not getting an interview – just apply more.
- 7) Working in Industry, supporting government missions, is just as valuable to your resume and professionalization. Plus it can get your security clearance process started and as desired connect you with government opportunities.
- 8) Jump into that first experience, once you have 18months to 2 years under your belt you can start to explore other government or industry options that build upon your initial experience or take it in another direction.
- 9) Any experience in the National Security arena is better than none. So broaden your search to think tanks, consulting firms, and research centers.

And get connected to anyone who has worked in or around the National Security arena, to learn about the work, their experiences, and their recommendations.

Where to find relevant jobs: While many may be familiar with the www.USAJOBS.GOV site, we recommend consulting resources directly that can give a specific boost to those looking to specialize a career in National Security. Two exemplars are the [U.S Intelligence Career Explorations tool](#) and [Lockheed Martin Jobs Site for College Students](#).

Top DIB Company HR/Internship/Entry Level Links:

Boeing Co: <https://jobs.boeing.com/internships>

General Dynamics Corp : <https://gdmissionsystems.com/careers/internships>

Northrop Grumman Corp:

<https://www.northropgrumman.com/careers/internships-at-northrop-grumman/>

Raytheon Co: <https://jobs.rtx.com/search-jobs/intern?orgIds=4679&kt=1>

United Technologies Corp ---

McKesson Corp: <https://www.mckesson.com/Careers/University-and-Graduate-Jobs/>

Leidos Holdings Inc: <https://careers.leidos.com/search/intern/jobs>

Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc: <https://www.huntingtoningalls.com/hii-careers/co-op-internship-opportunities/>

Harris Corp: <https://www.harris.com/>

Humana Inc: <https://www.humana.com/careers/what-we-do/college-programs>

Leidos Holdings Inc: <https://careers.leidos.com/search/intern/jobs>

Perspecta Inc: <https://careers.perspecta.com/interns-students-and-recent-graduates>

Booz Allen Hamilton Corp:

<https://careers.boozallen.com/jobs/search/summer%20games>

Accenture Plc: <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/careers/local/students>

CDW Corp: <https://www.cdwjobs.com/search/summer-intern/jobs>

Dell Inc: <https://jobs.dell.com/internships>

Federally Funded Research and Development Centers/non-profits:

- CMU SEI: <https://www.sei.cmu.edu/careers/internship-opportunities/>
- MITRE: <https://www.mitre.org/careers/student-programs>
- IDA: <https://www.ida.org/careers/students-and-recent-graduates/summer-associate-internships-and-fellowships>
- CNA: <https://www.cna.org/careers/internship>

- Hopkins APL: <https://www.jhuapl.edu/Careers/CollegeInternships>
- MIT LL: <https://www.ll.mit.edu/careers/student-opportunities/summer-research-program>

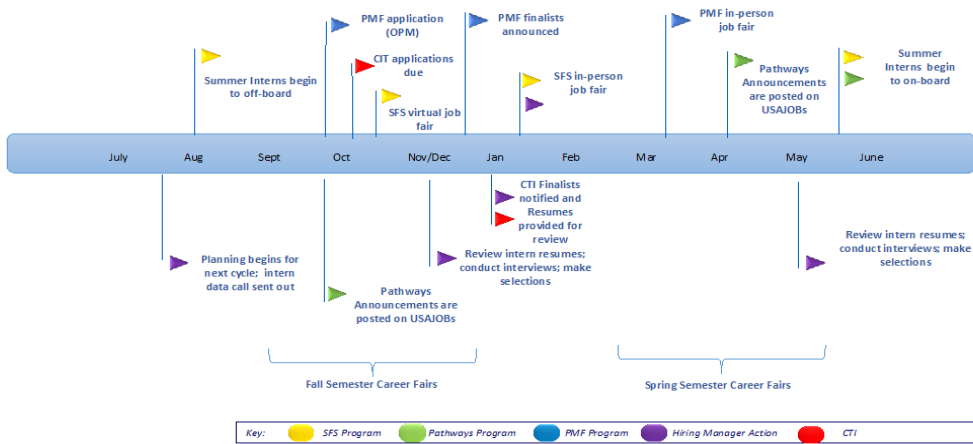
National Research Labs

- Idaho National Laboratory: <https://inl.gov/inl-initiatives/education/internships/>
- Sandia National Laboratories: https://www.sandia.gov/careers/students_postdocs/internships/
- Lawrence Livermore: <http://scholars-llnl.ttcportals.com/>

Federal National Security & Law Enforcement arena:

- FBI: <https://www.fbijobs.gov/students/undergrad>
- DOJ: <https://www.justice.gov/careers/interns-recent-graduates-and-fellows>
- Secret Service: <https://www.secretservice.gov/join/diversity/students/>
- NCIS: <https://www.ncis.navy.mil/Careers/Internships/>
- OSI: <https://www.osii.com/careers/college-relations.asp>

Student Programs Timelines



Program	Intent of Program	Eligibility	Target Audience	Program Length	Typical Grade	Veteran Preference	Job Announcement
Pathways Intern	Train and develop a student intern to prepare them for a career-laddered permanent position.	At least 16 years old, enrolled in a degree seeking program (all degrees, to include high school)	Accredited College/University (2yr/4yr)	Minimum 640 hours (4 months), may intern until graduation	1/2 (Cyber) 3/4/5/7	Yes	Yes – USAJOBs (twice a year: fall and spring)
Pathways Recent Graduate	Train and develop an entry level candidate and prepare them for a career-laddered permanent position.	Will graduate in 9 months, or have graduated within the prior 2 years	Recent college graduates (any degree)	1 year	5/7/9/11	Yes	Yes - USAJOBs
Pathways PMF	Intensively train and develop an advanced degree candidate, and prepare them for a career-laddered permanent position.	PMF Finalists, as determined by OPM selection process	Recent Graduates of advanced degrees (i.e. Masters, J.D., Ph.D.)	2 years	9/11/12	Yes	Yes –PMF portal
Scholarship for Service (Internship)	Train and develop a student intern to prepare them for a career-laddered permanent position.	Enrolled in an SFS institution; granted an SFS scholarship	Students pursuing Cyber related degrees (any level)	Summer/ 10 week appointment	3/4/5/7/9	Only if announcement is posted	Yes, if posting for a specific position –Flyer with OPM's SFS Office
Cyber Talent Initiative	Train and develop an entry level candidate and prepare them for a career-laddered permanent position.	Partnership for Public Service screens and accepts candidates into the program	Cyber students about to graduate with a degree (any level)	2 years	5/7/9/11	Yes	Partnership for Public Service accepts applications
Volunteer Student Interns (Unpaid)	Provide learning opportunities in a professional setting to students	At least 16 years old, enrolled student	High School or College Students	Typically one semester; may intern until graduation. Minimum 10 weeks	Unpaid	Does not apply	Students email their resumes/transcripts/cover letter to StudentCareers@cisa.dhs.gov

For advice on options, timing, and what fit would be best for you, contact the CISA Student Programs Manager, Jennifer Jones at jennifer.jones@cisa.dhs.gov

Where to connect and learn: Start now with professional association virtual events. Become a member of a Professional Association that fits your area of focus, like INSA, AFCEA, CSIS, NDIA, CIS and so many more.

Perspectives from WhiteHawk CEO Terry Roberts: Terry Roberts is a Global Risk and Cyber Innovation Professional with over 20 years of Executive Government, Academia and Industry experience. In 2015, Terry established the first online CyberSecurity Exchange – WhiteHawk Inc., providing AI based cyber risk online platform and SaaS solutions, in enablement of companies and organizations of all sizes, across the Private and Public Sectors. Previously Terry was the TASC VP for Cyber Engineering and Analytics, an Executive Director of the Carnegie Mellon, Software Engineering Institute, after completing her government career as the Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence.