Summer Associate Program

IDA Staff at a Glance

The Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) is a not-for-profit corporation that operates Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs). Two of these FFRDCs are accepting Summer Associates.

Staff at the IDA Systems and Analyses Center (SAC) provide objective analyses of national security issues, particularly those requiring scientific and technical expertise, and conduct related research on other national challenges. The Systems and Analyses Center, located in Alexandria, Virginia, is comprised of eight research divisions:

- Cost Analysis and Research Division
- Intelligence Analyses Division
- Operational Evaluation Division
- Science and Technology Division
- Information Technology and Systems Division
- Joint Advanced Warfighting Division
- System Evaluation Division
- Strategy, Forces and Resources Division

Staff at the IDA Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI), located in Washington, DC, assist the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and other executive branch agencies in formulating federal S&T policy by providing high-quality, objective, analytical support to inform policymakers.

Overview of Our Associate Program

The IDA Summer Associate Program provides students a unique opportunity to use their critical thinking and analytic skills to work on challenging real-world national security issues (at SAC) and science and technology policy issues (at STPI). Each year, IDA hires paid student associates to work for a minimum of 10 weeks between June and August. IDA pays for one round trip travel expenses for out of town students. Associates are responsible for living expenses during the summer.

SAC seeks a variety of disciplines including computer science, information technology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, operations research, aero/astronautical engineering, mechanical or electrical engineering, materials science, statistics, economics, as well as social and behavioral sciences, international relations, policy studies, and finance. Strong quantitative skills are our top priority regardless of the academic discipline.

STPI seeks a variety of disciplines including behavior sciences, biological sciences, computer sciences, economics, engineering, environmental sciences, learning sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, social sciences, and statistics. Strong critical thinking and writing skills are our top priority.

We seek highly qualified students with strong academic backgrounds. Our preference for the program is graduate students, but we will consider undergraduates who are rising seniors. In either case, students must be returning to an academic institution in the fall to continue their educational pursuits. Applicants are required to submit a resume, cover letter and transcripts. Applicants who are selected will be subject to a security investigation and must meet eligibility requirements for access to classified information. U.S. citizenship is required.

IDA is an equal opportunity employer committed to providing a working environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, genetic characteristic or any other legally protected condition or characteristic.

Accepting applications October 1, 2016 – January 7, 2017