

NKI Internship Program Overview

The Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research (NKI) offers remote, hybrid, and on-site Research Internships designed to provide hands-on experience in behavioral, preclinical, and clinical research. Internships are unpaid; however, NKI supports students in securing external funding through university programs and scholarships. Course credit arrangements can be coordinated with universities when applicable.

Internships are available during the academic year and summer. Academic-year placements typically require a minimum commitment of **one day (8 hours) per week**, with preference for students who can commit to more than one semester. Summer Scholars participate in a **full-time, immersive program (typically 30–40 hours/week)** from the first Monday in June through the first Wednesday in August.

Who the Internship Is Designed For

Research internships at NKI are ideally suited for students seeking hands-on experience in preparation for careers in behavioral, translational or clinical research, neuroscience, mental health, or clinical practice. Undergraduate coursework in biology, psychology, neuroscience, and research methods or statistics is recommended.

Career paths well aligned with our training opportunities include (but are not limited to):

- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Neuroscientist
- Psychiatrist
- Statistician
- Epidemiologist
- Public Health Researcher
- Data Scientist

Internship Tracks

NKI offers five internship tracks across diverse research areas:

1. General Clinical Research

Interns contribute to human-subjects research across a range of clinical and translational studies. Activities may include participant engagement, study implementation, data management, and quality control. Opportunities often involve large-scale initiatives such as the **NKI-Rockland Sample (NKI-RSI)**, a landmark community-based study examining brain maturation, mental health, and lifespan development.

2. Biomedical Imaging & Neuromodulation

Interns assist with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and electroencephalography (EEG) research focused on brain structure, function, and connectivity. Responsibilities may include data quality assessment, preprocessing, analysis, algorithm development, literature review, and preparation of technical reports. This track is well suited for students interested in neuroimaging, computational neuroscience, or engineering applications in mental health research.

3. Behavioral Health / Cardiorespiratory Fitness

When available, interns support studies examining relationships among physical fitness, behavior, and brain health. Activities may include assisting with cardio-respiratory fitness assessments, participant scheduling, data entry, and data quality monitoring. This track is ideal for students in kinesiology, sports medicine, exercise science, or related fields who want experience in human performance research within a neuroscience context.

4. Neuropsychology Focused Research

Interns participate in research on cognition, behavior, and clinical outcomes. Opportunities may include neuropsychological test administration under supervision, data management, statistical analysis, and assistance with manuscript preparation. This track is well suited for students interested in clinical psychology, cognitive neuroscience, or assessment science.

5. Education / Outreach

Interns contribute to community engagement and public education efforts that support NKI's mission. Activities may include developing recruitment materials, assisting with outreach events, supporting equity-focused initiatives, and creating accessible science communication content. Experience with graphic design, digital media, or community-based work is helpful but not required.

6. Molecular & Systems Neuroscience (CDR / EBI)

Internships within the Center for Dementia Research (CDR) and the Emotional Brain Institute (EBI) provide opportunities to engage in translational neuroscience spanning molecular, cellular, circuit-level, and behavioral approaches. These placements are well suited for students interested in neurodegeneration, memory, emotion, and the biological basis of psychiatric and neurological disorders.

Center for Dementia Research (CDR) Interns may assist with studies investigating Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including work on protein aggregation, lysosomal and autophagic pathways, synaptic biology, and neuroinflammation. Activities may include tissue processing, immunohistochemistry, microscopy, image analysis, colony management support, and data organization for ongoing projects.

Emotional Brain Institute (EBI) Interns may contribute to research on the neural circuits underlying emotion, learning, and memory. Opportunities may include behavioral testing, histology, electrophysiology or imaging data organization, literature review, and assistance with experimental preparation. Projects may involve rodent behavioral paradigms, circuit-mapping approaches, or computational analysis of neural and behavioral data.

This track is ideal for students with strong interests in neuroscience, psychology, biology, or related fields who wish to gain experience in laboratory-based research on neurodegeneration, emotion, and memory.

Summer Scholars Program

The Summer Scholars program matches students to mentors based on interests, skills, and lab needs. Scholars participate in weekly seminars led by multidisciplinary NKI scientists. Projects may involve data collection, analysis, manuscript preparation, or community engagement. Remote and hybrid options are available.

NKI does not provide stipends for Summer Scholars. Many universities offer funding for unpaid internships, and NKI provides:

- Formal acceptance letters with dates and expected hours
- Confirmation emails to school program coordinators
- Required start/end paperwork
- Information on affordable summer housing and external funding sources

Application Instructions

To apply, please submit the following via email to Applications@nki.rfmh.org:

- CV or résumé including GPA
- Cover letter describing relevant experience, skills, career goals, and areas for growth

- Preferred internship track (or indication of broad interest)
- Preferred start/end dates
- Weekly availability (days/hours in Eastern Time)
- On-site availability (note: NKI does not provide housing; limited local dorm rentals may be available)

Application Processing

Applications and inquiries are reviewed in the order they are received. Processing times vary depending on application volume and the needs of individual research groups. If additional information is required, we will contact you directly using the email address you provided.

What to Expect Next

- If you submitted application materials, they will be forwarded to relevant research groups for consideration.
- If you requested general information, a member of our team will follow up as soon as possible.
- Availability varies by lab, research area, and time of year.

Application Timeline

- **Summer Scholars:** Interviews typically between January-April.
- **Academic Year Internships:** Interviews conducted on a rolling basis.

Identifying Research Mentors

Candidates are encouraged to explore NKI's research areas to identify potential mentors whose work aligns with their interests. In addition to the faculty directory, applicants may find it helpful to review the **Research** pages on the [NKI website](#), which provide overviews of major centers, laboratories, and scientific programs across the institute. These pages offer more context about ongoing projects, methodological approaches, and thematic focus areas than the directory alone.

Faculty may identify interns independently or through the Internship Program. Supervisors make their own selection decisions and may notify the Internship Program if they wish their intern to be included in summer programming and announcements.

Contact Information

Applications and inquiries may be submitted to: Applications@nki.rfmh.org