



2026 Student Internship Award Opportunity Announcement

- Description** The objective of this grant is to support undergraduate, graduate, and medical students, as well as residents or fellows interested in conducting mentored research focused on alopecia areata. The goal is to enable promising young scientists and physicians to develop and refine their research skills and advance toward careers as investigators focused on improving the lives of those living with alopecia areata.
- Applications related to all aspects of alopecia areata are strongly encouraged, including basic and translational science, burden of disease, epidemiology, and clinical research.
- Eligibility** The applicant must:
- Be enrolled as a student (undergraduate, graduate, or medical), resident, or fellow for the duration of the award.
 - Secure the endorsement of an investigator willing to host the applicant in their lab.
 - Be committed to conducting a research project focused on alopecia areata. (Note: survey studies that anticipate using the NAAF community email list will not be considered.)
- The supervisor must:
- Be able to provide appropriate mentorship of the applicant during the proposed study period.
 - Be formally affiliated with an institution capable of administering the internship award.
 - Have an active interest in alopecia areata research.
- Award** Awards will be issued to and administered by the mentor's or supervisor's host institution. **Indirect costs are not covered by NAAF awards.**
- Graduate or medical students, residents or fellow: \$5,000 salary/stipend
 - Undergraduate students: \$2,000 salary/stipend
- Project Period** Between May 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.
- Application** Students are encouraged to solicit labs working on alopecia areata and mentors are encouraged to refer the opportunity to promising applicants. The expectation is that applications will be drafted through a collaborative process between student and mentor.
- Applications must be submitted by email to grants@naaf.org by **11:59pm PT on Monday, March 2, 2026**. Complete applications with all accompanying materials must be submitted as a single pdf file. An application template is [available here](#).
- Review Criteria** Awardees will be selected based on the following criteria:
- Relevance of project to alopecia areata
 - Strength of project
 - Strength of mentorship
 - Strength of applicant

Note: The number of student internship awards to any one research group or laboratory may be limited to encourage broad participation. NAAF anticipates making multiple awards in 2026.

Award notifications are anticipated by **April 3, 2026**.

Application Instructions

The following components must be included in each application.
 All components must be **combined in a single PDF document**.
 Make the Face Page form page 1 of your application.

Materials	Directions
Format Specifications	Applications must be written in 11pt or larger Calibri or Arial font with at least one-half inch margins. Smaller type is acceptable in figures, graphs, charts, tables, legends and footnotes. Application pages should be consecutively numbered.
Face Page	The Face Page includes the main identifying information for the application including: contact information for applicant and mentor/supervisor; project information including title, dates and funding request; and signatures and assurances from applicant, supervisor and institutional official. A form is provided in the application packet.
Abstract (250 words or less)	Summarize the proposed research for a non-scientific audience in a written statement. The statement should describe the research question, the aims of the project, and the project's significance. The abstract should not exceed 250 words and may include one figure. Text included in a figure will not count towards the 250-word limit.
Project Summary (2 pages or less)	Briefly describe the background, hypothesis, and specific aim(s) to be accomplished during the project period. The project summary should not exceed two pages. Also include a list of references cited (not counted towards page limit).
Letter of Support and Mentorship Plan	A letter of support from the applicant's mentor/supervisor must be provided. This letter should describe how the supervisor will mentor the applicant, detail who will directly supervise the applicant, the frequency of meetings between the applicant and mentor and plans for the applicant to present their research. The letter of support should also describe whether additional funds are available to support the applicant's research plan.
Applicant Transcripts	Provide an electronic copy of the applicant's transcript from their current institution. Unofficial transcripts are permitted.
Biographical Sketches and Curriculum Vitae (3 pages or less)	Use the NIH format to provide a biographical sketch of the applicant's mentor/supervisor, and a biographical sketch or curriculum vitae of the applicant. Do not exceed 3 pages per document.

Questions?

Contact Lisa Anderson, PhD, Vice President of Research & Education, at lisa@naaf.org.