

## Maine Government Summer Internship Program

The Maine Government Summer Internship Program places talented college students in internships in which they contribute to Maine state and local government. Interns gain meaningful work experience, make professional connections, and gain insight into career goals. The supervisors benefit from eager workers who care deeply about contributing to Maine government, bringing fresh perspectives and a variety of skills.

The Internship Program is a full-time, 12-week, paid work experience. To be eligible, students must either be enrolled in a Maine college or be Maine residents enrolled elsewhere and have successfully completed at least two years of college. Students are chosen based on skills and interests; all majors are eligible.

Supervisors select projects for the interns to accomplish and identify the skills required for the jobs. A selection committee reviews all applications and makes the final selections. Consideration is given to education and skills in relation to the available internship positions.

This year 184 students from 49 different schools applied to the program. Thirty-four were selected and completed their internships. These interns were placed within 13 departments of Maine state government and 11 different municipal and county governments.

Since its establishment in 1967 by the 103rd Legislature, the program has placed more than 1800 students in Maine government internships.

With the continuation of the pandemic, the summer of 2021 meant many internships involved working remotely. Students and supervisors carried out the internships with remarkable creativity and dedication to make valuable contributions to the state of Maine.

A final reception for interns and supervisors was held at the Blaine House in August. Below are the 2021 interns.



*Administered by*

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# MAJOR PROJECTS OF THE 2021 MAINE GOVERNMENT INTERNS

The 2021 Maine government summer interns were selected for positions in 13 different departments of state government, 11 municipal governments and 1 county government. Interns are matched with a supervisor and are hired for specific projects while also assisting in general workflow. Due to the pandemic, many internships involved working remotely, a few remained in person, and others were a mixture. This list shows a sampling of the interns' activities.

## Interns used **research** and **communication** skills to

- Research low-income electric programs across the United States to submit in comments to the Public Utilities Commission for a stakeholder process as directed by the Legislature
- Work with bureau superintendent to draft and submit a plan to the US Treasury to distribute \$50 million in federal housing aid on behalf of Maine homeowners impacted by COVID-19
- Implement summer programming for blind and visually impaired students on the UMaine campus and for the Step-Up program, a remote-learning program for students with autism
- Review broadband support programs offered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, gathering information on state and federal funding opportunities
- Study the mercury-auto switch product stewardship program to inform the department's report to the Legislature
- Support the city manager by assisting the town's community development, transportation, and agriculture committees
- Update the city's comprehensive plan, using census and economic data
- Research, write, edit, and fully redesign a website
- Help plan a future community garden, including location and funding
- Write articles for the newsroom and meet with every team to talk about internal communications, barriers, and ways to improve
- Research, create, and update the town's emergency operations plans
- Review law, bills, and testimony on "small-dollar lending" in Maine and other states and write a report as requested by the Maine State Legislature

## Interns used **scientific** and **analytical** skills to

- Carry out rare snake surveys, bat acoustics surveys, invasive species control, bird acoustics surveys and wildland fire training
- Complete the cemetery burial census for 26 cemeteries, mapping the cemeteries with ArcGIS and logging lot owner and interment information into the software; build an electronic searchable database available to the public
- Work with the DEP Air Bureau, Tech Services, Composting Program, and Response Services, sharpening communication, GIS, and environmental field skills
- Catalog all town assets (culverts, fire hydrants, lights, poles, public water infrastructure) and write the program to host this information so it will be available to all towns in the county
- Validate the accuracy of speed data on roadways from cellphones during congestion for transportation studies
- Collect, clean, and analyze data on new hire applications for the "Back to Work" program to better understand the employers participating in the program by industry, creating interactive visualizations in Tableau so that data users can customize their own reports
- Complete outfall inspections for compliance with the town's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit
- Complete energy audits of Maine Army National Guard facilities in locations throughout the state
- Conduct an invasive plant survey along public roadways and public spaces
- Monitor river water through measuring dissolved oxygen and specific conductance, collecting samples for bacterial testing

"The best thing about my internship was the people. Everyone was super friendly and helpful and my supervisor was awesome. It was a great experience and I would highly recommend the program."



# 2021 MAINE GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERNS AND SUPERVISORS

## State Internships

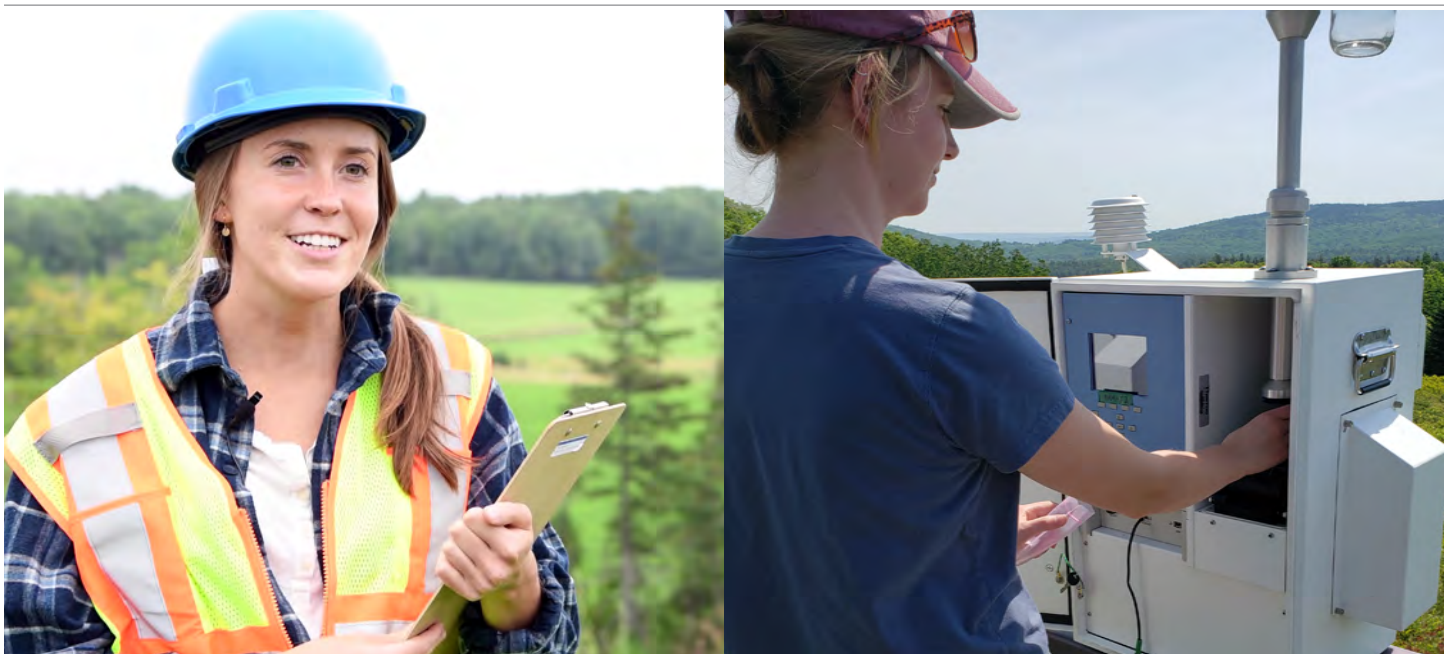
Internship title	Intern name, hometown	Intern college, major	Supervisor name, title and division
<b>Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services</b>			
Benefits and Policies Coordinator	Mia Denison Brunswick, ME	<i>University of King's College</i> Political Science	Paige Lamarre Communications Coordinator Employee Health and Benefits
Benefits and Policies Coordinator	Kimberly Smith West Paris, ME	<i>University of Maine</i> Masters in Global Policy	Beatrice Turner Program Manager Employee Health and Benefits
<b>Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry</b>			
Planning Research Assistant	Hannah Bonine Bath, ME	<i>University of Southern Maine</i> Planning, Policy and Management	Benjamin Godsoe Chief Planner Land Use Planning Committee
<b>Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management</b>			
Energy and Engineering Assistant	Hayden Ouellette Augusta, ME	<i>University of Maine</i> Mechanical Engineering	Alan Ballard Energy Manager, Maine Army National Guard
Energy and Engineering Assistant	Benjamin Willertz West Bath, ME	<i>University of Maine</i> Mechanical Engineering	Alan Ballard Energy Manager, Maine Army National Guard
Conservation Assistant	Wilson Radulski Bangor, ME	<i>Husson University</i> Biology	Timothy Bickford Conservation Manager Maine Army National Guard
<b>Maine Department of Education</b>			
Commissioner's Office Intern	Clio Bersani South Egremont, MA	<i>Bowdoin College</i> Education and History	Rachel Paling Communications and Outreach Manager
<b>Maine Department of Environmental Protection</b>			
Sustainability Intern	Kathleen Tims Cornish, ME	<i>University of Maine</i> Biology	Elena Bertocci Environmental Specialist, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
Hydrogeology Assistant	Karoline Bass Orono, ME	<i>St. Lawrence Unviersty</i> Environmental Studies	Kayla Michaud Geology Technician II, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management
<b>Maine Department of Economic and Community Development</b>			
Outdoor Industry Project Assistant	Christine Bratcher Bucksport, ME	<i>Husson University</i> Business Administration	Carolann Ouellette Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation
Business Development Assistant	Ryan Kovarovics Arlington, VA	<i>Bowdoin College</i> Government and Legal Studies/Hispanic Studies	Jonathan Poole Large Business Development Manager, Office of Business Development
<b>Maine Department of Health and Human Services</b>			
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assistant	Hajna Nagy Gardiner, ME	<i>Bowdoin College</i> Government & Legal Studies and Environmental Studies	Leana Amaez Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Commissioner's Office
<b>Maine Department of Labor</b>			
Data Processing and Economic Research Assistant	Oliver Hall Auburn, ME	<i>Williams College</i> Economics	Mark McNerney Director, Center for Workforce Research and Information
Step Up Program Assistant	McKenna Brodeur Oakland, ME	<i>University Maine at Farmington</i> Psychology	Libby Stone-Sterling Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation



# 2021 MAINE GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERNS AND SUPERVISORS

## State Internships Continued

Internship title	Intern name, hometown	Intern college, major	Supervisor name, title and division
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Intern	Samantha Stone Southington, CT	<i>Husson University</i> English	Annette Stevens Rehabilitation Consultant, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
<b>Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and DHHS Office of Behavioral Health</b>			
Opioid Response Project Assistant	Meghan Buckley Greene, ME	<i>Temple University</i> Public Health	Gordon Smith Director of Opioid Response
<b>Maine Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future</b>			
Climate and Energy Lead by Example	Kiara Frischkorn Beverly Hills, CA	<i>University of New England</i> Marine Affairs	Sarah Curran and Cassandra Rose Senior Policy Advisor and Senior Science Analyst
<b>Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation</b>			
Consumer Credit Examiner Intern	Charles Volkwein Portland, ME	<i>University of Maine School of Law</i>	William Lund Superintendent, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection
<b>Maine Office of the Public Advocate</b>			
Legal Assistant	Sarah Gracie Liberty, ME	<i>University of Maine School of Law</i>	Barry Hobbins Maine Public Advocate
<b>Maine Department of Transportation</b>			
Intelligent Transportation Systems and Traffic Safety Analyst	Elliot Dixon Albion, ME	<i>University of Maine</i> Civil Engineering	Colby Fortier-Brown Assistant Transportation Engineer
Bridge Maintenance Assistant	James Dixon Clinton, ME	<i>Norwich University</i> Civil Engineering	Ben Foster Bridge & Structures Maintenance Engineer
<b>Maine Workers' Compensation Board</b>			
Worker Advocate Assistant	Emmett Herr Yarmouth, ME	<i>McGill University</i> Industrial and Labour Relations	Nigel Stevens Employee Attorney Advocate



Maine Department of Environmental Protection interns Katie Tims (L) and Karoline Bass (R) doing summer field research.



# 2021 MAINE GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERNS AND SUPERVISORS

## Municipal and County Internships

Internship title	Intern name, hometown	Intern college, major	Supervisor name, title and division
<b>City of Bath</b>			
GIS Assistant	Andrew Meredith Haddam, CT	<i>Bowdoin College</i> Environmental Studies and English	Ben Averill Director of Planning and Development
Community and Economic Development Assistant	Katie Schools Gorham, ME	<i>University of Southern Maine</i> Political Science & Philosophy	Marc Meyers Assistant City Manager
<b>Town of Bridgton</b>			
Emergency Operations Planner	Madison Douglas Windham, ME	<i>University of Southern Maine</i> Criminology & Political Science	Todd Perreault Emergency Management Director
<b>Town of China</b>			
Economic and Community Development Coordinator	Alec Byron Farmingdale, ME	<i>Thomas College</i> Business Administration	Rebecca Hapgood Town Manager
<b>Town of Chelsea</b>			
Town Manager Assistant	Jacob Maker Walpole, ME	<i>Norwich University</i> History	Scott Tilton Town Manager
<b>Town of Freeport</b>			
Freeport Economic Development and Planning Intern	Peter Sachs Freeport, ME	<i>Kenyon College</i> Political Science	Keith McBride Executive Director, Freeport Economic Development Corporation
<b>Town of Gray</b>			
Community and Economic Development Intern	Drew Hersom Gray, ME	<i>University of Maine</i> School of Law	Nate Rudy Town Manager
<b>Lincoln County</b>			
County Planning Assistant	Shannon Harty Bowdoinham, ME	<i>Saint Michael's College</i> Environmental Science	Mary Ellen Barnes Executive Director, Lincoln County Government
<b>Town of Readfield</b>			
Vital Records Management and GIS	Megan Lemieux Vassalboro, ME	<i>Unity College</i> Biology	Benjamin Rodriguez Sexton, General Services
<b>Town of Union</b>			
GIS Mapping Coordinator	Michael Levesque Augusta, ME	<i>University of Maine at Farmington</i> Environmental Policy and Planning	Jay Feyler Town Manager
<b>City of Vassalboro</b>			
Cemetery Census and Mapping Project Organizer	Savannah Clark Vassalboro, ME	<i>University of Maine</i> History	Mary Sabins Town Manager
<b>Town of Windham</b>			
Environmental/Stormwater Intern	Casey Wood Norton, MA	<i>University of New England</i> Animal Behavior & Environmental Science	Gretchen Anderson Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator



# 2021 MAINE GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Maine Department of Labor interns and supervisors; Maine Public Advocate Barry Hobbins addresses the group at the final internship reception.

## From Supervisors

*It was great having an eager intern to help with projects that were of high importance, but had fallen to the side for a few months. He brought a much needed energy to the office this summer and we were grateful to have him aboard.*

*Showing someone what kind of opportunities may be available to them post-graduation was a great experience.*

*The best part was having an intern whose work ethic matched our busy office and who took initiative, completed all tasks, was pleasant and professional and could work independently.*

## From Interns

*As an intern I have had the chance to see the connection between data collection, analysis, and policy adaptation.*

*I gained practical experience being a mechanical engineer as well as learning the importance of thorough analysis.*

*This internship helped me grow as a person, gain confidence, make relationships, and gain more skills I will need after I graduate college.*

*This job made me feel like I am prepared to start a career professionally, and helped me orient myself to what I would like to do in the future.*

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## INTERNSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Jessica Crosby, Director of Talent Management, Maine Bureau of Human Resources

Jay Feyler, Town Manager and Public Information Officer, Town of Union

Kristine Fournier, Principal Consumer Credit Examiner, Dept. of Professional & Financial Regulation

Peggy McKee, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, University of Maine

Reginald Parson, Senior Legislative Aide and Policy Analyst, Office of the Speaker of the House

James Westoff, Director of Career Services, Husson University

Samantha Zuckerman, Policy and Legal Director, Office of the Senate President



Intern Peter Sachs works on a community art project for the Freeport Economic Development Corporation.

