



Margaret Chase Smith
Policy Center

Maine Government Summer Internship Program

For more than 50 years the Maine Government Summer Internship Program has placed talented college students in paid summer 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. Their supervisors and co-workers benefit from the work of students bringing fresh perspectives, a variety of skills, and new energy to their workplace.

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 university 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.

This year 140 students from 40 different colleges and universities applied to the program. Forty-eight were selected and completed their internships. Thirty-nine interns were placed in departments of Maine state government, eight in municipal governments and one in county government.

Each position has a direct supervisor who selects projects for the intern to accomplish and identifies the skills required for the job. A selection committee reviews all student applications and makes the final selections.

Consideration is given to education and skills in relation to the available positions. Since its establishment in 1967 by the 103rd Legislature, the program has placed nearly 2000 students in Maine government internships.

This internship program is made possible by the support of the Office of the Governor, the Maine Bureau of Human Resources, participating state agencies, local and county governments, and the many dedicated employees who serve as intern supervisors.



Administered by

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Gov. Mills welcomed the 2023 interns and supervisors at a reception at the Blaine House.



PROJECTS OF THE 2023 MAINE GOVERNMENT INTERNS

The 48 summer interns were placed within the executive branch of Maine state government and in positions of town, city, and county governments. Interns are matched with a supervisor and are hired for specific projects while also assisting in general workflow. This list provides a sampling of the interns' activities.

Interns used *research* and *communication* skills to

- Research policies to strength early childhood education systems
- Conduct outreach related to Maine's pharmaceutical take back program
- Help develop MaineDOT's Carbon Reduction Strategy
- Develop arguments in opposition to an appeal submitted by an opposing party to the Law Court (Maine's highest court)
- Create social media content including designing infographics and filming & editing reels
- Assist municipalities in completing their biennial municipal recycling progress reports for MaineDEP
- Research and write a history of Maine transportation (from pre-1600s to date) while also crafting and posting historical content to the Department's social media
- Coordinate the adult ed multilingual institute by networking, organizing, and planning everything from presenters and location to scheduling and food
- Help plan and carry out a 2-week residential Step-Up program for college-bound kids with autism
- Create a "How Do I..." page on the City of Bath website, working closely with the City Manager's Office for outreach to residents
- Perform legal research in support of various filings, including a brief to the State Supreme Court and Maine Public Utilities Commission
- Perform data analysis, research and site visits to analyze and improve Maine's inventory of tourism experiences

Interns used *scientific* and *technical* skills to

- Review the City of Saco's capital plan, providing analysis and identifying capital needs
- Use lidar data to create an inventory of structures on off-shore islands served by the LUPC and which will be used to analyze the effects of sea-level rise and other climate change-related impacts
- Create a Cemetery Map App which allows the viewer to search between the five cemeteries that the Town manages with interactive headstone-points showing names and specific plots
- Create a drone program for dam safety, including training for all dam safety staff to minimize risks to the team
- Conduct weekly acoustic bat surveys for endangered species at two training sites: processing and analyzing data to determine species presence, and writing a report of findings
- Perform a road analysis project for the town, surveying surface and drainage conditions on all public roads, measuring, photographing and ranking them
- Create a municipal inventory map featuring all of the Town of Union's municipal property (bridges, boat launches, dams and fire hydrants) Edit and finalize a GIS layer used in reviewing applications to rezone for development, and write a report with proposals for making it a public-facing tool
- Curate one of MaineDOTs online databases (Confluence Wiki), meeting with stakeholders and updating content
- Conduct fieldwork surveys to identify a federally listed endangered plant species

"The best part of the internship was the people I got to work with and the opportunities they afforded me. I was treated like part of the team and given fantastic opportunities beyond the scope of my project."



2023 MAINE GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERNS AND SUPERVISORS

Supervisor name, title and division	Intern name, hometown	Intern college, major	Internship title
Maine Department of Administrative and Financial Services			
Alexis Soucy Director of Media & Stakeholder Relations, Office of Cannabis Policy	Sarah McNeil Waterville, ME	Vassar College Media Studies/French	Stakeholder Engagement Assistant
Beatrice Turner Office of Employee Health, Wellness & Workers' Compensation, BHR	Ava Petrin Leeds, ME	Bates College Politics	Workers' Compensation Assistant
Laurie Andre Director, GGSC Financial and Personnel Services	Jenna Roane Brunswick, ME	College of the Holy Cross Sociology	Financial Service Center Operations and Communications Assistant
Sheila Adkins Senior Talent Development Consultant Human Resources, Talent Management	Madelyn Cote Gray, ME	Castleton University Sociology	Talent Development Assistant
Larry Carbonneau Senior Financial Analyst, Financial and Personnel Services, SESC	Braeden Lynch Lewiston, ME	Elon University Finance	Financial Service Center Business Operations Assistant
Paige Lamarre Communications Coordinator, Office of Employee Health & Wellness	Meghan Harmon Windham, ME	Merrimack College Human Development and Human Services	Business Administration Intern
Michelle Chasse Program Financial Manager, Financial and Personnel Services	Ayden Wyman Augusta, ME	Husson University Business Administration	Financial Service Center Business Operations Assistant
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry			
Beth Valentine PFAS Fund Director, Office of the Commissioner	Anthony Erwin Boothbay Harbor, ME	University of Maine School of Law	PFAS Fund Implementation Intern
Benjamin Godsoe Planning Manager, Land Use Planning Commission	Elliot Vosburgh Islesboro, ME	University of Rhode Island Master of Environmental Science and Management	Land Use Planning Intern
City of Bath			
Erika Helgersen Director of Human Resources and Executive Assistant to the City Manager	Vanessa Chasse Rochester, NH	Husson University Graphic/Visual Design	Content Creation and Communications Intern
Town of Chelsea			
Christine Landes Town Manager	Anna Stolt Augusta, ME	George Washington University Environmental Studies	Municipal Road Surveyor
Town of China			
Rebecca Hapgood Town Manager	Bailee Mallett Fort Fairfield, ME	Thomas College Political Science and Criminal Justice	Economic & Community Development Specialist
Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management			
Steven Mallory Director of Operations Emergency Management	Dominic Johnson Randolph, ME	Boston University Mechanical Engineering	Dam Safety Field Assistant
Timothy Bickford Conservation Manager	Lindsey Bell Farmingdale, ME	Merrimack College Biology	Conservation Intern
Alan Ballard Energy Manager	Annabelle Collins Vienna, ME	University of Maine Business Management	Engineering, Energy and Building Assistant
	Rowan Hurlburt Lincolnton, ME	University of Maine Mechanical Engineering	Engineering, Energy and Building Assistant



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Maine Department of Economic & Community Development			
Christine Rosen Development Project Officer, Maine Office of Tourism	Luke Carignan Cape Elizabeth, ME	American University Environmental Studies, Data Science	Tourism Inventory & Assessment Assistant
Maine Department of Education			
Amy Poland Professional Development Coordinator, Adult Education	Cora Saddler Cabot, AR	University of Maine English Studies	Adult Education Professional Development Assistant
Rachel Paling Communications & Outreach Manager Commissioner's Office	Natalie Grandahl North Monmouth, ME	University of Connecticut Political Science	Maine DOE Communications Intern
Jon Graham Digital Learning Specialist, Office of Innovation	Madeline Levesque Augusta, ME	Husson University Graphic/Visual Design	Learning Through Technology Digital Design Assistant
	Nhan Chau Heron, ME	University of Maine New Media	Learning Through Technology Data and Media Assistant
Jennifer Page MOOSE Project Manager, Office of Innovation	Charlotte Buswick Boxford, MA	Colby College History	Innovative Education Assistant
	Hannah Craig Cumberland, ME	Boston University International Relations	Innovative Education Assistant
Elaine Bartley RREV Project Director, Office of Innovation	Annabelle Williams Hope, ME	University of Vermont Business Administration	RREV Communication Strategy Coach
Matthew Vaughan Resource Administrator, Office of Operation	Jilleon Farrell Manchester, ME	University of Maine Human Nutrition	Resource Administrator Assistant
Maine Department of Education			
Julie Smyth Director, Office of School and Student Supports	Joseph Koenig Gray, ME	Husson University Marketing Communications	School and Student Supports Communication Assistant
Maine Department of Environmental Protection			
Derek Gatlin GIS Coordinator, Remediation and Waste Management	James Greenwood Lewiston, ME	University of Maine Ecology and Environmental Sciences	GIS and Data Research Assistant
Megan Mansfield-Pryor Environmental Specialist, Remediation and Waste Management Sustainability Unit	Riley Flannery Scarborough, ME	Connecticut College Environmental Studies	Recycling Programs Intern
Tiffany Veilleux Program Manager, Remediation and Waste Management Container Redemption Program	Julian Blohm Camden, ME	University of Maine Political Science	Beverage Container Redemption Program Intern
Robert R. Burks Environmental Specialist III, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management	Alyssa Elliott Bangor, ME	University of Connecticut Natural Resources and the Environment / Earth Science	Environmental Assistant for the Prevention of Drugs in Maine's Waters
Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future			
Ana Hicks Policy Director, Human Services, The Governor's Children's Cabinet	Edith Tierney Palmyra, ME	Mount Holyoke College Sociology and Spanish	Early Childhood Policy Assistant
	Taylor Engdahl Portland, ME	University of Maine School of Law	Early Childhood Policy Assistant
Town of Gray			
Kyle Hadyniak Digital Media Coordinator, Communications and IT	Hope Carroll Portland, ME	University of Maine Communications	Communications/Outreach Assistant
Maine Department of Health and Human Services			
Megan Swanson Program Manager, Office of Child and Family Services	Anna Pellerin Winslow, ME	Clark University Psychology	Early Care and Education Intern



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Maine Department of Labor			
Libby Stone-Sterling Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Alice Covenant Farmington, ME	University of New England Social Work	Summer Youth Programs Intern
	Katherine Ritchie Northport, ME	University of Maine Education, History	Summer Youth Programs Intern
Maine Department of Labor			
Sara Watson Benefits Division Director	Abbie Vigue Fairfield, ME	University Of New Hampshire Communication	Benefits Government Intern
Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission			
Mary Ellen Barnes Executive Director, Lincoln County Regional Planning	Katherine Simmons North Yarmouth, ME	University of Maine Ecology and Environmental Sciences	Climate Resiliency and Planning Assistant
Town of Lisbon			
Melanie Alexander Assistant Town Manager	Alex Renaud Waterville, ME	McGill University Urban Geography and Economics	Town Manager's Office Internship
Office of the Public Advocate			
Andrew Landry Deputy Public Advocate	Kristina Grimaldi South Portland, ME	University of Maine School of Law	Maine Office of the Public Advocate Intern
Maine Department of Transportation			
Eric Buckhalter Webmaster Creative Services	Chapman Hall Brunswick, ME	University of Maine History	MaineDOT History Project
Chad Lewis Director, F&A/Contract Procurement Office	Robert Dwyer Poland, ME	Saint Michael's College Political Science	Contract/Grant Assistant
Daniel Garber Assistant Transportation Engineer, Intelligent Transportation Systems	Aidan Lucas Westbrook, ME	University of Maine at Farmington Computer Science	ITS and Traffic Safety Analyst
Jennifer Grant Director, Public and Community Services Division, Planning Office	Jane Hirschman Indianapolis, IN	Bowdoin College Environmental Studies & Government and Legal Studies	Planning Resource Analyst
Cindy Owings-Hutchison Assistant Director, Results and Information Office	Sam Sheaffer Hallowell, ME	Bates College Politics, Mathematics	Knowledge Management Technician
City of Saco			
Glenys Salas Director of Budget & Fiscal Analysis, Finance Department	Natalie Robinson Wells, ME	University of Maine Mathematics, Data Science	Capital Planning Assistant
	Sofia Durdag Scarborough, ME	Carleton College undecided	Grant Assistant
Town of Union			
Jay Feyler Town Manager	Caeden Bross Union, ME	University of Maine at Farmington Environmental Policy & Planning	GIS Assistant



Maine DOT Interns and Supervisors



2023 MAINE GOVERNMENT SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



Interns have an educational visit to the Maine State House

From Supervisors:

My intern was an excellent match. She was bright, self-motivated, detailed, and enthusiastic about working within our program.

I was surprised at our intern's independence, competence, and confidence. We included her in all projects and were totally pleased by her contributions as a member of the team.

From Students:

The best thing about my summer internship was being able to work and collaborate with such a supportive team.

I find myself interested in many different career paths that I was unaware of until I started this internship, and now I have experience in these fields to note on my resume.



Gov. Mills awarding certificates to summer interns

INTERNSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Bill Brown, Chief of Staff, Office of the Speaker of the House

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

Peter Osborne, Director of Educational Services, Maine Municipal Association

James Westhoff, Director of Career Services, Husson University

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



Gov. Mills with MaineDEP participants

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