



American Seed Trade Association Internship Program

About ASTA: Founded in 1883, the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) is one of the oldest trade associations in the United States. Its membership consists of over 700 companies involved in seed production and distribution, plant breeding and related industries in North America. ASTA advocates science and policy issues of industry wide importance. ASTA promotes the development of better seed, to produce better crops, for a better quality of life.

Internship Description: ASTA is seeking to fill one paid internship position for the summer of 2021. Because of the current challenges with the COVID pandemic, the position may be based in ASTA's headquarters in Alexandria, VA, or may be performed remotely (or a combination of the two), with the exact dates to be determined with the candidate. The incumbent will work closely with the domestic and international policy and communications teams to further ASTA's activities in these areas. The internship will have a strong focus on science communications which will include writing and research about seed related topics such as plant breeding and agronomy for non-scientific audiences. The successful candidate will be entering his or her junior or senior year of college or in a master's Program and have a background in agricultural sciences, economics, marketing or communications.

Key Job Duties and Functions

- Learn about the seed industry and its role in agriculture.
- Conduct research and compile reports on plant breeding programs, state and federal legislative issues, and other relevant seed industry topics
- Develop articles, social media and other communication content
- Support ASTA's student membership program and expand connections with university ag departments
- Provide planning and support for ASTA's Policy & Leadership Development Conference in June in Washington, D.C.

Required Skills, Abilities & Characteristics

- Strong verbal and written communications skills
- Interest in agriculture
- Completion of some scientific coursework preferred
- Ability to work independently and multi-task in a fast-paced environment
- Take direction and learn new things
- Efficient in MS Office
- Organized, detail oriented and highly self-motivated

What you'll walk away with: This internship experience offers students the opportunity to gain communications and policy experience while learning in a hands-on environment. Through this opportunity the intern will develop leadership and project management skills, while gaining insight into association work and cutting-edge agricultural research. The individual will manage projects from start to finish and work closely and collaboratively with ASTA staff. The individual will also have the opportunity to participate in ASTA's Policy and Leadership Development Conference (TBD in Washington, DC or virtually) and network with ASTA members. Upon completion, the student will have a portfolio of relevant hands-on project experience to add to his or her resume.

Apply Now: Do you have the skills and the desire to be part of a fun, hard-working team? Send your resume and brief cover letter to Ann Jorss, ASTA chief operating officer, at ajorss@betterseed.org with the subject "Internship Application." For questions and additional information, please call (703) 837-8140. **The deadline is March 29, 2021.**