



McDonald Observatory 2026 Summer Internship

Join the McDonald Observatory in a paid public outreach internship for undergraduate astronomy and physics students. Spend the summer under magnificently starry skies!

Application deadline is February 15, 2026

A candidate will be chosen by April 1, 2026

Outreach Internship - 40 hours per week, Tuesday – Saturday. Some evenings. \$15-20 per hour.

McDonald Observatory - 450 miles west of Austin. Free housing offered onsite.

May 12 through August 15, 2026, flexible start/end dates. 10-12 consecutive weeks required.

Applicants must be currently enrolled at an accredited undergraduate institution, have completed AST 307 or an equivalent course in introductory astronomy (for science and engineering majors), and have a valid class "C" driver's license with a current three-year driving record.

Our ideal candidate will be:

- Engaging and outgoing
- Comfortable with public speaking
- Enthusiastic about learning and science communication
- Somewhat knowledgeable about amateur telescopes and equipment

The summer intern will assist with the daily operations of the visitors center, present programs like Solar Viewing and Guided Tours, operate telescopes at Star Parties several nights a week, support summer workshops for K-12 teachers, and participate in local outreach activities. The internship is an excellent opportunity to develop and practice public speaking skills, share knowledge of astronomy and physics, and spend time with world class telescopes at a major observatory.



The position requires driving a shuttle van, climbing stairs, and working outdoors in low light and various weather conditions. A job offer includes a private room and bathroom in the onsite Astronomers Lodge with the option to purchase meals. Dinnertime at the Lodge is an excellent opportunity to make contacts with researchers, graduate students, and professors. Interns are not required to stay at the Lodge, but there is no housing stipend provided for offsite accommodations.

This position is security sensitive. McDonald Observatory is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer committed to diversity.

Applications due by February 15, 2026.

To apply, send a resume and letter of interest to Rachel Fuechsl, at fuechsl@utexas.edu. Questions are welcome via email.

Frank N. Bash Visitors Center
3640 Dark Sky Drive
McDonald Observatory, TX 79734



McDonald Observatory
The University of Texas at Austin