

OnRamp II 2021-2022



National Security Agency OnRamp II Scholarship Program General FAQ's

1. What is the OnRamp II Scholarship Program?

The National Security Agency's (NSA) OnRamp II Scholarship Program fosters educational partnerships between NSA and academic institutions to promote the technical health and diversity of students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). An important element of this partnership includes: scholarships, internships, and opportunity for mission-focused research.

2. Where/ how do I start to apply for the OnRamp II scholarship?

To be eligible for the OnRamp II Scholarship Program you must be a student at one of the following schools:

- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- Collaboration for Advancing Minority Participation in Security (CAMPS): includes Texas A&M University, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and West Texas A&M University.
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- University of Texas at San Antonio.

Details on where/how to apply for the OnRamp II Scholarship Program can be found on the OnRamp II Flyer.

3. Can this scholarship be combined with other scholarships? Will this effect financial aid? Can a student be awarded more than one scholarship?

Academic scholarships are awarded annually to ungraduated and graduate students of designated OnRamp II academic institutions. Students may receive scholarship funding for up to three years to complete their course of study. Other scholarships and/or aide can be applied if tuition and mandatory fees exceed the amount of an OnRamp II scholarship. Award of an OnRamp II scholarships will not affect a student's ability to receive other financial aid.

4. What if a student needs to drop or change a class?

Students desiring to drop or change a class must notify the EPA Partner Program Manager at their school, as well as the NSA OnRamp II Program Office in advance of taking any action. Refer to Section I of the Student Handbook for details.

5. Can a student receive a waiver from the internship obligation if their clearance is not granted in time?

The NSA OnRamp II Program Office can waive the 12-week internship requirement if a student does not receive a clearance in time to fulfill this particular obligation. Should a student receive a waiver, the service obligation will be extended by an additional 12 weeks.

6. Will the OnRamp II Program support graduate and PhD studies?

Yes. However, for this inaugural academic year (2021/22), support for sophomore and junior undergraduates will be a priority.

7. How will GPA be calculated for transfer students?

GPA will be determined by the designated OnRamp II academic institution, a transfer GPA will not be considered.

8. Does the OnRamp II Program support post docs?

No, post doc support is not within the scope of the program.

9. How many years can a student receive scholarship funding?

Academic scholarships are awarded annually to ungraduated and graduate students of designated OnRamp II academic institutions. Students funded by the OnRamp II Program will be given priority for scholarship consideration for a total of three years to complete their course of study.

10. What does OnRamp II scholarship funding cover?

The recipient of OnRamp II scholarship funding will receive up to \$25,000 per academic year to cover:

- Tuition support and education related fees (does not include meal plans, housing or parking).
- Books (to include e-books and audio books) and school supplies up to \$3000 per academic year.
- Professional development up to \$2000 per academic year (e.g. conference fees, certification training, and travel).

Scholarship funding cannot be used for stipends or administrative activities associated with managing the OnRamp II Program.

Award/ Payment

- 1. How will the student receive the scholarship money? Who will the scholarship money be coming from – the University or NSA?**

Scholarship funding will be provided by NSA directly to the academic institutions who will be responsible for disbursing funds to pay for tuition and education related fees, books, school supplies, and professional development as described in the Student Handbook.

- 2. Will my scholarship be taxed?**

Contact your school's OnRamp II POC (add info) for details.

Eligibility

- 1. What are qualifications to apply for the scholarship? Can an international student apply for this scholarship?**

To be eligible for consideration for the OnRamp II scholarship, students must meet all of the following:

- U.S. citizen
- Current or prospective enrollment as a full-time student in a STEM discipline at a NSA designated OnRamp II academic institution
- Meet selection criteria for hire at the NSA as described at intelligencerecareers.gov w/link to applications tab.

Additional information on the OnRamp II Program can be found at on the OnRamp II Flyer.

Application and Hiring

- 1. What does the clearance process entail?**

The government considers many factors when granting security clearances, including citizenship, drug use and personal integrity and conduct. Refer to Section III of the Student Handbook for additional details on obtaining a security clearance.

- 2. What types of positions will be available for the internship?**

NSA's summer internship opportunities include cyber operations, cyber security, signals intelligence, math/research, security and counterintelligence and so much more! Interns at NSA are full-time employees entitled to a salary, stipend towards housing costs (only

for long distance participants) and paid time off. For additional information on NSA Internships visit [Intelligencerecareers.gov – NSA Student Programs](https://intelligencerecareers.gov).

3. Is telework available for the intern commitment obligation?

Full-time telework internships are not available at this time. NSA Internships offer students an invaluable experience and insight into the Agency's national security missions, as well as an opportunity to work alongside premier STEM talent.

4. Can the commitment be served with a government contractor?

No, the service obligation is to the National Security Agency.

5. What location will the student be required to serve their internship?

The majority of NSA's summer internship opportunities are available at Ft. Meade, Maryland, although there may be an opportunity to work as an intern at one of the Agency's Cryptologic Centers located in Georgia, Texas, Colorado and Hawaii.

6. What grade level will I be when hired?

Salary for each student will be determined by the Office of Human Resources in coordination with the OnRamp II Program Office taking into account each student's unique set of skills, experiences and degree(s), that factor into the starting salary/grade.

7. What is required of the student after the scholarship is awarded?

In addition to the obligations listed in the OnRamp II flyer, students are expected to uphold the standards of conduct required to successfully complete NSA's pre-employment processing and maintain a clearance.

8. Is there information available on the requirements to obtain a security clearance?

Information on obtaining a security clearance and requirements for employment at NSA can be found on [IntelligenceCareers.gov – Application Process](https://intelligencerecareers.gov).