

The Minnesota High Tech Association



Program Overview

What is SciTechsperience anyway?

Put simply, SciTechsperience is a free, state-funded internship program that connects small Minnesota businesses with talented college STEM majors for internship opportunities within their field of study. When qualified companies hire interns through the program, they receive a 50 percent wage reimbursement, worth up to \$2,500 per student, to help pay their interns. Employers can hire up to 5 interns per program year, they choose who to hire and pay absolutely nothing to participate.

History

In 2012, Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) sought to build the state's growing high-tech labor market through state-wide workforce initiatives. One of the programs to immerge was the SciTechsperience Internship Program, which would be housed at the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) and was created to help strengthen and advance Minnesota's knowledge-based economy.

Program Goal

SciTechsperience is designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities to talented college students while supporting small and growing companies in dynamic industries across Minnesota. The program aims to keep talented STEM students in Minnesota after they graduate.

Hire Top STEM Talent

Once a company has applied on SciTechMN.org and is approved, the employer posts an internship on the SciTechsperience job board. They can then use the SciTech student database to search for and contact qualified candidates. In addition, SciTech sends out a weekly *New Jobs email* blast to its preapproved talent pool and strongly encourages students to reach out to companies directly to apply for internships.

Receive a \$2,500 Reimbursement

Employers secure their wage match when the hire of a qualified student is reported to SciTechsperience via phone (952-230-4241) or email (beckys@mhta.org). Wages matches are available on a first come, first hire basis and to receive the reimbursement, employers send in a simple one-page form and supporting documentation, either when the intern reaches \$5,000 in gross wages or the internship ends, whichever comes first.

Program Funding

SciTechsperience is funded by the State of Minnesota through an appropriation by the Minnesota legislature. Every two years, MHTA - the home of SciTechsperience - seeks to have program funding renewed for the next biennium.

To help meet the continued demand for the SciTechsperience Internship Program, the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated \$1.75 million in grant funding to fund 400 STEM internships over the 2019-20 biennium.

Numbers Don't Lie

337 small Minnesota businesses applied for the program in 2019 alone, and over 1,650 interns have secured paid internships within their field since the program began.

Eligible Employers:

- For-profit companies with a physical presence in Minnesota;
- Small companies with up to 250 employees worldwide;
- Offering an internship that provides hands-on industry experience in the following **industries:**
 - Aerospace and Defense
 - Agriculture
 - Food Science
 - Biotechnology and Life Sciences
 - Engineering Services
 - Fuels and Energy
 - IT and Computer Technology
 - Mining, Materials Manufacturing and Processing

Eligible Students:

- 18 years of age or older;
- A Minnesota resident or student attending college in Minnesota;
- In good academic standing (2.50+ GPA);
- Technical or community college students (halfway through their program) or
- College juniors or seniors (60 credits completed) or
- Graduate students
- Enrolled in an accredited U.S. college and pursuing a qualifying science, technology, engineering or math degree;
- Eligible to work off campus in the United States