

Summer 2026 Research Assistant Internships

[Institute for China-America Studies \(Washington, D.C.\)](#)

The Institute for China-America Studies is seeking **three** research assistant interns for Summer 2026! The internship has a start date of May/June through August, with the potential of extension based on the evaluation of work. *This is a part-time, 20 hour per week internship that will primarily be conducted in-person at the ICAS office in Washington, D.C.*

Competitive candidates will have an interest in U.S.-China relations and are pursuing a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, though those pursuing a master's degree will also be considered. We are looking for team-oriented problem solvers who can think on their feet, be detail-oriented, and are eager to improve their professional qualitative and quantitative skills.

Qualifications and Required skills:

- Native-level fluency in English is **required**
- Foundational knowledge of U.S.–China relations, with interest in related fields such as economics, security, international law, maritime affairs, technology, climate change, or other relevant areas
- Strong ability to navigate internet search engines and effectively use both primary and secondary research sources
- Excellent writing skills and analytical abilities
- Experience with Microsoft Office & Google Drive operating systems

Preferred skills:

- Intermediate-level fluency in a foreign language, ability to analyze primary source material in Mandarin highly preferred
- Prior research experience at a think tank, university, or through an internship in a related field
- Either:
 - Familiarity with graphic design through Adobe Creative Suite (e.g., Adobe Express, Acrobat), Canva, CapCut, etc. and social media management via personal/professional accounts on Instagram, LinkedIn, or Tiktok
 - Experience with Python, SQL, Excel, database management, and/or completion of 200-level coursework in statistics or econometrics

Job duties will include the following, but are not limited to:

- Co-leading the research of the *ICAS Bulletin*, *Maritime Affairs Handbill*, or *Trade n' Technology Dispatch* under the direction of ICAS staff
- Conducting primary and secondary research in support of scholarly research agendas under the direction of ICAS staff
- Generating original writing in the forms of Commentaries/Blog Posts at least one per month
- Assisting with event planning and setup, as needed
- Assisting with minor administrative duties, as needed
- Assisting with social media graphics and posting on Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn **AND/OR** database management, data validation & clean up, and analysis

Benefits:

This is an excellent opportunity for young or upcoming professionals interested in U.S.-China relations. For interns who work in-person, we offer a small stipend at the successful conclusion of the internship to cover daily travel costs and selected candidates will also have access to our scholars and network. We offer all

ICAS research interns the opportunity to co-author with our scholars and also encourage staff-guided solo publications focusing on relevant topics in U.S.-China relations.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter that includes a 1-3 ranking of which ICAS programs are of most interest (Maritime Affairs, Trade n' Technology, Blue Carbon Climate Change), resume, and a 2-5 page writing sample/infographic. Please compile as a single PDF using the form on the ICAS Website no later than February 28, 2026.

Questions about the internship can be submitted to Program and Communications Coordinator Rian Knighton at rianknighton@chinaus-icas.org.