



KENAN INSTITUTE

ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

KIETS Climate Leaders Program 2025 Guidelines

Climate Leaders Program Mission

The Kenan Institute for Engineering, Technology & Science (KIETS) Climate Leaders Program (CLP) will educate, inspire, empower and support emerging leaders as they prepare to help mitigate and adapt to threats from climate change. An internship position, along with leadership, communication and community engagement training, will prepare the students involved in the program (Scholars) for careers and involvement within professions and communities focused on finding climate change solutions.

Up to 15 NC State undergraduate and/or graduate students will be selected for the CLP annually. The network of Scholars will comprise committed, emerging, innovative leaders focused on finding solutions to mitigating, reversing or adapting to the negative effects of climate change. Each Scholar will be mentored by a faculty Climate Leaders Mentor who will nominate the Scholar, help guide the Scholar's progress in the program and support engagement with our world's best leaders and organizations working on climate change solutions. Awards will cover a 12-month period, from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.


The CLP involves an internship experience (3 to 6 months), active participation in all activities associated with the CLP Leadership Academy, and the annual Climate Leadership Symposium. Additional details of activities and expectations are provided below.

Candidates for the 2025 CLP may propose any topic and internship associated with mitigation strategies and adaptation to climate change and/or apply for one or more of our prearranged internship positions

(<https://climateleaders.kenan.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/87/2024/10/2025-Pre-arranged-internships-v2.pdf>).

Eligibility

Candidates must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students at NC State who will not graduate prior to Spring 2026.



Candidates must have a strong academic record and a demonstrated interest in pursuing leadership opportunities and solutions to climate change. Any major is eligible and candidates may propose an internship in any area associated with climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Nomination & Selection Process

Candidates must be nominated by a faculty or professional staff member at NC State who is willing to mentor the candidate and work with the candidate to identify an internship experience. The cohort of faculty mentors (KIETS CLP Faculty Mentors) will play a key role in the success of the KIETS CLP.

In the nomination process, sponsoring faculty members may suggest potential internship opportunities for the candidate. Partnerships with local, state or federal government agencies, community organizations, non-profits, academic institutions, business or industry, inside or outside the US are encouraged to expand the breadth of experience for the Scholars.

The CLP program is seeking Scholars that have a record of strong academic performance, and a willingness to take leadership positions that give them opportunities to communicate and engage individuals, as well as local and global communities, on climate change challenges and solutions.

Each application will include (1) a *Scholar Application Form*, (2) the candidate's *Resume* (uploaded on the *Scholar Application Form*) and (3) a *Faculty Nomination form* all of which will undergo internal review by a selection committee (organized by KIETS). Highly ranked applications will demonstrate:

- Candidate's strong academic performance
- Candidate's preparedness for an internship in a professional setting
- Candidate's leadership experience and potential (e.g., participation in school and community activities, specific goals for future involvement especially in leadership roles)
- Candidate's commitment to seeking climate change solutions
- Clear visions for internship goals and potential opportunities
- Strong faculty mentor support for the candidate
- Candidate's commitment to total engagement in the program (e.g., attending all monthly CLP meetings, Leadership Academy, etc. per the expectations below)

The members of a Selection Committee will meet with the finalists before making final decisions.* The Scholars chosen for the program will sign a letter of commitment that includes learning objectives and the expectation of participation in all program activities.

*Due to the high number of applications, we will be unable to provide feedback to applicants not selected for the program.



Internship Experiences

Internships should offer the Scholars significant opportunities to work and contribute to high-impact projects that help mitigation and adaptation efforts. The faculty mentors will ensure that the internships provide these types of opportunities, and will help the Scholars by providing an academic foundation for their internship and context to the work they are doing.

The internships should reach beyond current research and work experiences and can be at any local, state or federal government agency, community organization, non-profit, academic institution, business or industry, inside or outside the US. All internships at foreign institutions will need to be approved by the Kenan Institute, to ensure they meet university and other travel regulations at the national and international level.

We anticipate that internships will last from 3 to 6 months, and could be during the spring, summer or fall academic periods. For maximum flexibility, the internship can start at any time that fits into the Scholar's academic plans.

Funding Provided


Scholars will be provided with a \$1,000 stipend to help with costs associated with planning the internship experience and working with their faculty mentors during the academic year in which they are selected to prepare themselves for the work to be done during the internship.

Internship support packages will attempt to meet the needs of the individual Scholar. The actual amount provided will be different for each Scholar, depending on whether the hosting organization is providing support for the Scholar, and the potential need for travel and living expenses. Nominally, the support package will consist of stipends up to \$12,000 per Scholar.

Faculty mentors will be named KIETS CLP Faculty Mentors and will be provided with \$5,000 in discretionary funds to be used in support of their climate change research and academic programs.

Expectations

Scholars: Scholars will participate in an internship (3 to 6 months in length). Once an internship is identified, the Scholars will prepare a Statement of Objectives for the internship experience, and will be expected to share results as appropriate. Scholars are expected to participate in the Climate Leadership Academy and the annual Climate Leadership Symposium, attend meetings with their faculty mentor at least once a month, write a summary report, and give a presentation. Student-mentor meetings will be used to define and prepare for the internship experience and report on progress



during the internship experience. The presentation will be given to CLP participants and other audiences at the university, state, national or international levels.

The Climate Leadership Academy includes:

- Intensive program May 4 - 7, 2025
- Monthly forum (e.g., meet and greet, book discussions, seminars, guest speakers, panel discussions on the topics of climate science, leadership, community engagement, and communications) [standing time/dates, January - December, including summer months, approximately 2 hours in the evening]
- Optional opportunities (e.g., informal lunch meetings; attendance at public hearings, legislative sessions, commission meetings or local government meetings; access to additional background information, current events and publications)

The Climate Leadership Symposium will be held at NC State University in Fall, 2025 (two days in late September/early October). The Symposium will include Scholar presentations related to their internship experiences and presentations by invited speakers on climate change topics.

Faculty mentors: The mentor will guide their Scholar to prepare a Statement of Objectives for the internship experience. They will meet at least once a month with their Scholar to help them define and prepare for the internship experience, and later to gauge the level of progress being made on the internship objectives. The mentor will attend at least one Climate Leadership Academy event and participate in the Climate Leadership Symposium. Participation in the Symposium could include being an attendee, speaker, session moderator, session coordinator and/or providing occasional feedback on relevant program documents and announcements. The mentor will guide their Scholar in the preparation of the summary report and presentations to CLP participants and other audiences at the university, state, national and international levels. Mentors can be the best advocates for the program and can help strengthen the program by recommending internship placements and potential funding partners.

Program Timeline

September 4, 2024	Request for Application posted
October 20, 2024	Applications due by 11:59 pm EST
December 11, 2024	2024 Scholar cohort announced
Jan. - Dec. 2025	Monthly forum (~ 2 hrs in evening once a month, including the summer months, date/time TBD)
May 4-7, 2025	Climate Leadership Academy Intensive Program
Fall, 2025	Climate Leadership Symposium (two days late September/early October)



Questions concerning the Climate Leaders Program can be directed to;

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