

Data Science Internship Program



“The MLSC and its internship program are instrumental in bringing the ecosystem forward, and that is one of the many reasons Massachusetts is cutting-edge for companies like ours. The opportunity to expand this program to include someone like Hugh, with his advanced level of knowledge, experience, and educational insights has been phenomenal. I commend the MLSC for making this move. From my vantage, it allows us to readily embrace strong talent, and it has served our company exceptionally well.”

Gary Gregory
CEO, Perthera

Program Overview

The Data Science Internship Program focuses on increasing the availability of data science talent in the life sciences. The program creates well-paid internships for qualified candidates, including those at the Bachelor’s, Master’s, and Doctoral levels, by enabling research institutions and companies to hire paid interns. The program connects employers with prospective interns through an online platform and reimburses eligible companies and research institutions for intern stipends. Companies with greater than 100 full time employees (FTE) in Massachusetts are also encouraged to use the portal to search for talent, but reimbursements will not be available for intern stipends.

How the Program Works

- Prospective interns skilled in computational biology, bio-statistics, physics, biology, chemistry, economics, etc. with strong computational skills and an interest in applying data science to health outcomes are encouraged to submit an online application, including a resume and identifies data skills/tools. There's no application deadline since placement is rolling.
- Host organizations review applications and contact candidates directly if interested in hiring them for an internship. Internships are paid, up to 6 months, can be part or full time and take place any time throughout the year.
- MLSC reimburses research institutions and companies (with 100 or fewer FTE in Massachusetts and no more than 250 worldwide) for pay rates of up to \$20 per hour for interns that are pursuing or have completed their Bachelor’s degree, or have comparable data science qualifications, for a total reimbursement of no more than \$20,800 per intern, \$25 per hour for interns that have completed their Master’s degree for a total reimbursement of no more than \$26,000 per intern, and \$40 per hour for interns that have completed their Ph.D. for a total reimbursement of no more than \$41,600 per intern.

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Case Study

At Perthera, a leading oncology bioinformatics company located in Holliston, Hugh is part of a team that aims to help physicians make better treatment plan decisions for cancer patients, using the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and data. Through Perthera's innovative *Precision Oncology Platform*, their technology and team analyze a patient's medical and treatment history, along with their multi-omic molecular data, to generate precisely ranked personalized treatment options, best suited for the patient's specific cancer. Through numerous publications, their platform has been clinically proven to improve patient outcomes.



"As part of the computational biology team, I work to enhance the algorithms and optimize the reports, including an opportunity to develop an innovative feature within the Perthera Report. I can apply what I learned and researched in school to real-world evidence (RWE) and provide actual impact and support to patients."

Hieu (Hugh) Nguyen
Data Science Intern, Perthera

Impact on the Ecosystem

Life sciences is an ever-evolving industry that continues to push the landscape in how we treat diseases, develop new modalities, and redefine the careers created within this ecosystem. One such career path, data science, has emerged as one of the fastest growing industries. The [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) projects there will be an increase of nearly 28 percent in employment through 2026, resulting in more than 50,000 new data science jobs.

The Data Science Internship Program is a new offering that is an expansion of the MLSC's Internship Challenge, which embodies the belief in the power of experiential learning to cultivate a workforce pipeline. This new program was designed to respond to the rapidly increasing demand for data science talent by expanding the pool of prospective employees who have practical experience and enabling individuals with data science skills to explore life sciences careers in Massachusetts.

The program also seeks to develop a targeted workforce by providing life science internship opportunities for students pursuing data science and related majors, engage research institutions and industry in training and recruiting data scientists from a global talent pool, increase awareness of career pathways in life sciences to compete for talent with tech giants, and catalyze development of novel techniques for data mining in strategic areas to accelerate biomedical research.