MAGNet

Modeling and Analytics Graduate Network

Program Overview

State Farm® has developed a unique internship opportunity for graduate students in quantitative and analytical fields who are interested in a career in data science at State Farm. This program is called the Modeling and Analytics Graduate Network (MAGNet), and it allows interns to apply their data science skills to a wide variety of business problems across State Farm.

MAGNet is similar to a 50% graduate assistantship offered by the universities; interns receive a **competitive hourly wage** and receive **full tuition support** for the duration of the internship. Some State Farm benefits may also apply.

MAGNet is partnered with 4 Universities: The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, The University of Georgia, The Georgia Institute of Technology, and Arizona State University. Graduate students in highly quantitative disciplines are considered, with an emphasis on understanding statistical techniques. While participating in the MAGNet program, students are evaluated and given consideration for full time post-graduate employment at a State Farm corporate office in Bloomington, IL (corporate HQ), Atlanta, GA, Dallas, TX, or Tempe, AZ.

MAGNet Locations

Champaign, Illinois

State Farm Research Center
2001 South First St. (Suite 102),
Champaign, IL 61820

Established in 2006, the MAGNet program, in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, was State Farm's first data science career training initiative. This program has played a crucial role in helping State Farm build a highly skilled data science workforce. Following the success of the University of Illinois program, two additional programs were launched in Athens, Georgia and Tempe, Arizona, further expanding State Farm's commitment to developing a robust data science talent pipeline.

Athens, Georgia

West Washington Building
125 West Washington Street (Suite 725)
Athens, GA 30601

Established in 2014, MAGNet's second office is hidden right in the heart of downtown Athens, Georgia, a short walk from the campus of the University of Georgia. While we primarily work with students getting their Masters in Statistics at UGA, we also accept UGA Grad Students in other quantitative and analytical fields. Recently, we have expanded to also work with students from Georgia Tech who are enrolled in the Online Masters in Analytics program.

Tempe, Arizona

Established in 2023. Located in the Marina Heights offices on Tempe Town Lake, the Arizona MAGNet program currently works with graduate students at Arizona State University in the School of Mathematics and Statistical Sciences who are pursuing a master's or PhD in Actuarial Science, Statistics, or Mathematics.

Marina Heights
450 E Rio Salado Parkway
Tempe, AZ 85281

Internship Details

The Modeling and Analytics Graduate Network (MAGNet) is more than just an internship; it's one of State Farm's most successful recruiting pipelines for Data Scientists. MAGNet interns work on projects sponsored by data science teams at State Farm. Projects are reflective of real full-time data science efforts and benefit State Farm's enterprise goals.

The MAGNet Timeline

The MAGNet internship is meant to be a pipeline from graduate school to a full-time data science position at State Farm. It serves as our opportunity to evaluate interns as potential employees while helping interns develop the requisite skills that will be necessary for the job; it also provides interns an opportunity to evaluate State Farm as a potential future employer.

Interns join MAGNet when they have 3-6 semesters remaining in their graduate degree program, and the intention is for them to stay with MAGNet until the completion of their graduate degree, at which time there is potential to transition into a full-time Data Science position with us.

Each semester, interns work on their own project. Projects expose interns to a variety of business areas and statistical methodologies to prepare them for full-time work as a data scientist. Prior to an intern's final semester in graduate school, assuming they have been successful in the internship and have their leads' recommendation, interns will be asked to interview for a full-time hybrid data science position (IL,TX,AZ,GA). If they pass this interview, they will receive a contingent full-time job offer for a position to begin after their graduation.

As part of the contingent full-time job offer, tuition and fees paid for by State Farm for semesters ***after accepting*** said full-time job offer will fall under an Educational Reimbursement Agreement (ERA), with the understanding that the individual will stay with State Farm for two years of full-time employment or pay back some or all of the agreed upon amount. Participating in the MAGNet program does not guarantee a full-time employment offer. Consequently, if you do not receive a full-time employment offer or choose not to accept one made to you, you will not be required to pay anything back.

The intern's final semester(s) of the MAGNet program after accepting a full-time offer is spent working on a project for the team that has hired them for full-time work. This helps ease the transition to full-time work upon graduation.

A Semester as a MAGNet Intern

Each semester, each intern is assigned their own project, for which they are the data scientist. These projects are brought to us by Data Science teams throughout the company and are set up to mirror the work our full-time data scientists are doing. Projects are scoped to be completed within a single academic semester. Interns typically work on projects of one of the three following types:

- ***Generalized Linear Model Build:*** These projects follow a structured timeline to develop a GLM. These range from insurance rating models with Tweedie distribution assumptions to logistic regression for claim document classification.
- ***Machine Learning Model Build:*** These projects follow a structured timeline to develop and tune a Gradient Boosting Machine, Random Forest, or Large Language Model.
- ***Research Projects:*** These projects typically have a less restrictive timeline and can focus on exploration of new modeling methodologies, comparison of multiple tools or techniques, or any other project that does not fit strictly into the model development category.

While projects are individual, interns are not on their own. Interns have two types of mentors who will work with them throughout the semester:

- ***MAGNet Lead:*** The MAGNet lead is a data scientist whose work is focused on developing and mentoring new data scientists. Their job is to help guide interns in their development into a full-time data scientist by

making sure they are exposed to and understand a variety of key topics and skills that are necessary for full-time data science work. Interns have a 1-1 meeting with their MAGNet Lead every week to discuss project work and overall development.
- ***Project Partner(s):*** A project partner is a data scientist or business partner whose team is providing the project to MAGNet. While they typically have data science knowledge and experience, their role on the MAGNet project is more like that of a business partner. The project partner is there to provide insight on the data used for the project and the specific methodologies or techniques that may be common in their particular business area. Interns have a weekly project meeting with their project partner(s) and lead where they present the work they have done each week, ask questions and get feedback from the project partner(s), and plan out next steps for the following week.

At the end of each semester there are two key deliverables from each project:
- ***Presentation:*** At the end of each semester, the MAGNet programs host presentations for the entire State Farm Modeling and Analytics community. The work done by our MAGNet interns is real data science work that provides value to the enterprise, so there is great interest across the company in the MAGNet presentations. The presentations also provide an opportunity for our interns to practice communicating the methods and results of their work to an audience with a wide range of technical knowledge--a key skill for a successful data scientist.
- ***Documentation:*** After the completion of their project, interns also provide a technical write-up of the work they have done, to be provided to the project partner(s). This allows the team to use the work done on the project to advance their own research and goals.

Logistics

- Hours:
  - During Fall and Spring, Interns work 20 hours per week during normal business hours M-F. Intern schedules are set to accommodate their class schedules.
  - During the Summer semester, interns work 38.75 hours per week (full-time for State Farm within normal business hours.
- Duration:
  - The start and end dates of each semester are based on the academic calendar of the primary academic institution each MAGNet program partners with. In general, Spring and Fall semesters are approximately 16 weeks in duration, and Summer semesters are approximately 10 weeks in duration.
  - Renewal of the internship occurs on a semester-by-semester basis based on the intern's growth compared to our expectations. Due to the continuous nature of the MAGNet program, returning interns are expected to participate in the MAGNet program each semester. It is not possible to skip a semester (Fall, Spring, or Summer) and then return to the MAGNet program.
  - Ideally, interns would continue to renew their MAGNet internship each semester. Consequently, the duration of the overall internship is based on the graduation timeline of the individual intern, ranging from 3-6 semesters including summers (1-2 full calendar years).
- Work Arrangements:
  - The MAGNet internship is a hybrid position. Currently our programs are in office approximately two days per week, and interns work remotely the remainder of the week.

Benefits

- In addition to paying a competitive hourly wage, MAGNet also pays for university tuition and required fees for our interns. We also reimburse for all required and some recommended textbooks.
- MAGNet interns are eligible for and accrue Paid Time Off (PTO).
- MAGNet interns are eligible to enroll in a 401k plan.
- MAGNet interns are eligible for Health Insurance coverage.

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Apply for MAGNet

Eligibility

To be eligible for MAGNet, you must

- Be accepted to or enrolled in an in-person graduate degree program in a quantitative or highly analytical field at
    - University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign
    - Arizona State University
    - University of Georgia

OR, be accepted to or enrolled in the Online Master of Analytics program at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

    - Examples of highly quantitative or analytical degree programs: Statistics, Data Science, Actuarial Science, Computer Science, Economics, Mathematics, Biostatistics, Epidemiology.
- Have 3 to 6 semesters remaining in your graduate degree program, including summers (see FAQs).
- Must be available to work a hybrid position (designated in-office and remote workdays each week) at the office location of the program to which you are applying (see Program Overview).
- Applicants are required to be eligible to lawfully work in the U.S. immediately; employer will not sponsor applicants for U.S. work authorization (e.g. H-1B visa) for this opportunity.

Qualifications

We are looking for students with

- Strong understanding of Foundational Statistics
- Experience with statistical modelling and machine learning
- Experience with Statistical Programming (Python, R, SAS)
- Strong communication and problem-solving skills

Timing

- MAGNet typically hires for the upcoming semester in the previous semester
    - Hiring for Summer (May) Start Dates: Spring (January-April)
    - Hiring for Fall (August) Start Dates: Summer (May-July)
    - Hiring for Spring (January) Start Dates: Fall (August-December)
- How long job postings stay open depends on hiring capacity and rolling admission. Applications will close when the hiring need has been filled so there is not a set deadline for applications. The sooner you apply, the better. If you do not see an application available in the links below, Contact Us.

Application

Please make sure to include on your resume the ***name of the school and program*** you have been accepted to for graduate school and your ***anticipated graduation date*** (Semester and Year).

Champaign, Illinois	Athens, Georgia	Tempe, Arizona
Click Here to Apply	Click Here to Apply	Click Here to Apply

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FAQs

Here are some frequently asked questions we get about MAGNet. If you don't see an answer to your question here, Contact Us.

Where do I apply?

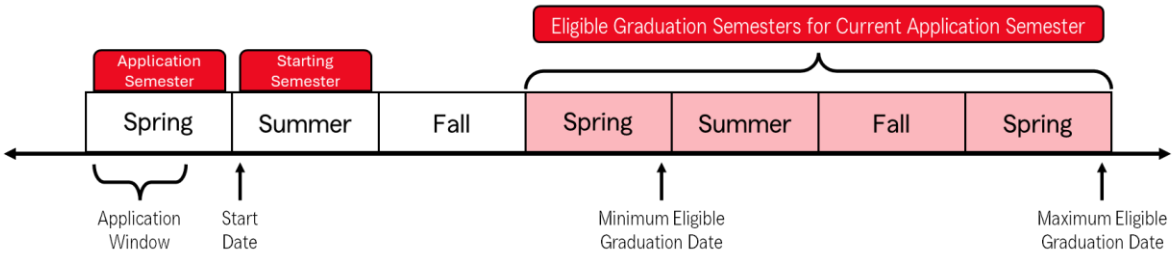
Apply for MAGNet

When should I apply?

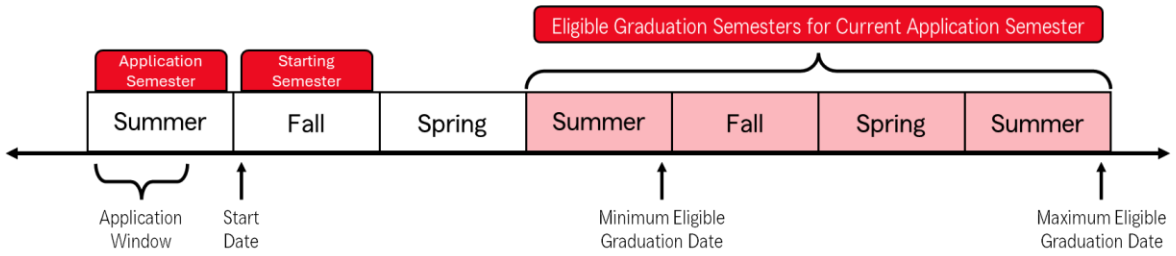
As soon as possible! The MAGNet internship job postings do not have a set deadline, the posting will be removed once the available positions have been filled.

How can I tell if I have 3-6 semesters remaining before my graduation?
What if the current application is for summer/spring/fall, but I want to start at another time?

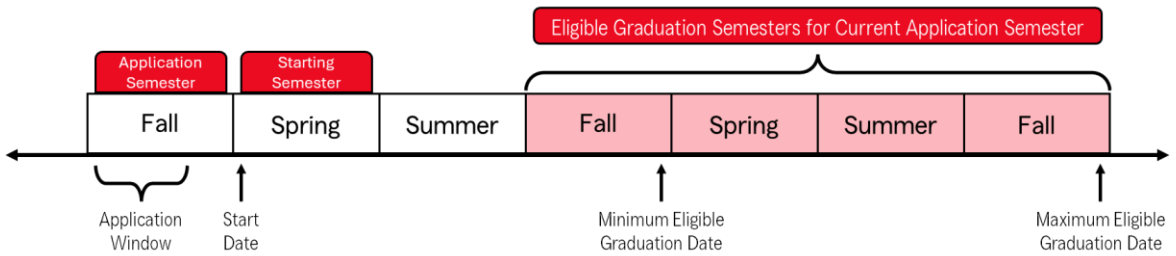
If you are applying in Spring, we are currently hiring for Summer semester start dates. This means that we are currently seeking applicants with grad dates between Spring of next year and Spring of two years from now.



If you are applying in Summer, we are currently hiring for Fall semester start dates. This means that we are currently seeking applicants with grad dates between Summer of next year and Summer of two years from now.



If you are applying in Fall, we are currently hiring for Spring semester start dates. This means that we are currently seeking applicants with grad dates between Fall of next year and Fall of two years from now.



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What should I include in my application/resume?
In your resume, please include your undergraduate degree program, university, and years of attendance. Your resume must include the graduate program you plan to attend, the start date of your program, and your expected graduation date from graduate school. If you have not started your graduate program yet, please include your application status (applied/accepted).
I'm not sure what semester I'm going to graduate
Please include your tentative graduation date, to the best of your ability, in your application.
Can I apply if I haven't been accepted to a graduate program yet?
Yes, if you have applied to a program. Please note this in your application
What if applications are not currently open at my location?
Contact Us
What if I only want to be in MAGNet for one semester? **What if I want to do MAGNet in the Fall and Spring, but not in Summer?** **The application lists the duration as one semester, what if I want to do MAGNet for longer?**
MAGNet is a multi-semester internship program that is designed to prepare grad students for a full-time data science position at State Farm. It is not feasible to expose the interns to the full variety of topics they need to be familiar with for full-time data science work in a single semester. If you are looking for a summer or other short-term internship, MAGNet is not the right fit for you, but you may be interested in State Farm's summer internship programs.
If I get rejected from the MAGNet program, am I able to reapply?
Yes! As long as you still meet the eligibility requirements, you are welcome to reapply for MAGNet in future semesters.
Does MAGNet sponsor international students?
Applicants are required to be eligible to lawfully work in the U.S. immediately; employer will not sponsor applicants for U.S. work authorization (e.g. H-1B visa) for this opportunity.

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Contact Us

For more information about the MAGNet Program, please reach out to us via email.

In your email, please include the following information so that we can quickly route your email to the appropriate person and get back to you as soon as possible:

- Your Name
- Your Undergraduate Degree
- Your Graduate Program (School and Degree Program)
- Your Expected Graduation Date for Graduate School (Semester and Year)
- Any other information relevant to your graduate school timeline

Email Us