Undergraduate & Graduate Internship Opportunity

Unpaid | Remote | Semester-Based or Summer

The Pheo Para Alliance (PPA) offers two unpaid internships for undergraduate or graduate students seeking hands-on experience with rare diseases, including pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma (pheo/para). The internship involves scientific writing, research translation, and knowledge dissemination.

Our program is tailored for students who want to apply their academic training to make a real-world impact on communities affected by pheo/para and to support the work of PPA's Research Advisory Board.

Why Intern With PPA?

As a PPA intern, you could have the opportunity to:

- Contribute to mission-driven research translation to help inform patients and caregivers on recent research advances
- Collaborate with nonprofit leadership, leading physician-scientists, and researchers
- Build a portfolio of applied work, translating research to practice
- Gain exposure to rare disease research, ethics, and patient-centered science
- Develop skills in scientific writing, communicating, and research translation

This internship is particularly well-suited for students considering careers in knowledge mobilization, public health, medicine, research, health policy, health or science communication, or nonprofit leadership.

Focus Area

The PPA's Research Advisory Board (RAB) seeks interns interested in gaining pheo and para expertise to translate current research into lay health information for patients, family members, advocates, and caregivers.

Research Translation for Patients & Caregivers

- Translate peer-reviewed research into clear, accessible summaries in written and/or video form for website and social media dissemination.
- Support the development of patient and caregiver-facing educational materials.

Eligibility

We welcome applications from students enrolled in accredited undergraduate or graduate programs from academic research institutions in one of the following disciplines. We strongly encourage applicants from institutions affiliated with a PPA Center of Excellence to apply.

- Knowledge Mobilization
- Public Health
- Health Sciences
- Medicine, Nursing, or Allied Health
- Epidemiology or Biostatistics
- Psychology or Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Health Communication or Science Writing

- Data Science or Health Informatics

Strong writing skills, attention to detail, and interest in rare disease research, translational research, or patient-centered science are highly valued.

Time Commitment & Structure

- **Unpaid, remote internship**
- On average, the time commitment is 5 hours per week, but it can increase as needed.
- Flexible scheduling
- Semester-based or summer appointments
- Academic credit may be arranged through the student's institution

Authorship, Credit & Research Ethics

PPA is committed to ethical research translation practices and to appropriately recognizing contributions.

- Interns may be listed as **co-authors or acknowledged contributors** when contributions meet accepted academic standards.
- All activities are supervised by PPA leadership and the Research Advisory Board.
- Interns do **not conduct human subjects' research independently**.
- All work products are the intellectual property of the Pheo Para Alliance, with interns permitted to reference their contributions for academic or professional purposes.

Timeline

Applications are due no later than May 15th, 2026. Interviews and selection will occur between May 16th and June 15th. All applicants will be notified by June 30th, 2026, with an expected start date of August 1, 2026. A 10-week minimum commitment is expected.

How to Apply

To apply, please submit:

- A brief statement of interest (no more than 1 page, 12 pt font, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman) with the inclusion of:
  - Academic program and anticipated graduation date
  - Areas of internship interest
- Current résumé or CV
- A list of 3 references (academic and/or professional) and their contact details (name, email, phone number, title, institution, mailing address)

Email application materials in PDF format to: info@pheopara.org with "PPA Fellowship Application" in the subject line.

Questions?

For questions about eligibility, academic credit, or internship structure, please contact Dr. JoBeth McCarthy, DHSc, MPH, CPH, at jobeth@pheopara.org.