



Position title: Economic & Industry Research Intern
Department: Administration
Reports to: COO
Salary type: Summer stipend
FLSA status: Non-Exempt

The Research Triangle Foundation (RTF) of North Carolina, the owner and developer of The Research Triangle Park, seeks an Economic & Industry Research Intern to provide support to our entire organization. The Economic & Industry Research Intern will support strategic research initiatives focused on emerging industries, regional competitiveness, and innovation ecosystems. This role will contribute to high-priority initiatives including quantum commercialization, defense innovation, circular economy development, and international industry recruitment. The intern will assist with data analysis, industry research, memo drafting, and presentation development to inform regional strategy and stakeholder engagement.

Sample Responsibilities

- Support research related to RTF's Quantum Support Initiative, including:
 - Quantum Preparedness
 - Quantum Commercialization
 - Quantum industry alignment within RTP
- Support research related to RTF's Defense Innovation initiatives, with a focus on RTP regional companies working in defense and defense-adjacent sectors.
- Contribute to research and analysis supporting circular economy strategies and opportunities within the region.
- Coordinate and conduct an analysis of peer research parks and innovation districts, with emphasis on:
 - Venture capital and investor support ecosystems
 - Startup and founder support infrastructure
 - On-site amenities and placemaking strategies
- Conduct an asset mapping exercise using Council on Entrepreneurial Development's data engine to identify sub-industry clusters and strategic areas of focus.
- Coordinate research identifying international companies aligned with the RTP region's emerging industry priorities.
- Draft research memos, briefing documents, and presentation materials for leadership and external stakeholders.

Qualifications

Required:

- Currently pursuing or recently completing a degree in Business, Planning, Data Science, Public Policy, Geography, Economics, or a related field.
- Strong proficiency in Microsoft Excel (data organization, analysis, pivot tables).
- Experience drafting professional memos and developing presentation materials (PowerPoint

or similar).

- Strong analytical and research skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to synthesize complex information into clear, strategic insights.

Preferred:

- Interest in innovative ecosystems, venture capital, emerging industries, or economic development.
- Familiarity with industry cluster analysis, commercialization pathways, or global investment trends.
- Experience working on applied research projects or collaborative initiatives.

Physical Demands:

- Ability to communicate orally with customers, vendors, management and other co-workers. Regular use of the telephone and e-mail for communication is essential.
- Sitting for extended periods is common. Hearing, vision and speaking within normal ranges is essential for normal conversations, to receive ordinary information and to prepare or inspect documents.
- Good manual dexterity for the use of common office equipment, such as computer terminals, calculators, copiers and fax machines.
- Being on your feet for extended periods of time.

Work Environment

The job is performed indoors in a traditional office setting. Activities include extended periods of sitting, occasional fast-paced events and extensive work at the computer monitor. Multiple times during the summer, interns may be asked to support events that will take place outside and require standing for 2-3 hours at a time.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Protected Veterans/Individuals with Disabilities

The Research Triangle Foundation of North Carolina does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

This internship offers a valuable opportunity for personal and professional growth in the economic and industry research field. If that's your passion, we'd love to hear from you!

Please submit resumes to stockwell@rtp.org