WHERE DO YOU WANT TO LAND AFTER COLLEGE?
Let AIAA help you get there.
MY EXPERIENCE — FROM AIAA STUDENT COMPETITION TO SUMMER INTERNSHIP

“AIAA HAS OPENED MANY DOORS FOR ME.” I became an AIAA member my sophomore year, so I could compete in Design/Build/Fly (DBF). I was drawn to DBF because it was an experience-based, systematic way of learning—a step beyond the classroom. I was able to take what I learned, utilize my skills, and develop new ones.

I was involved in DBF for several years. My first year, I contributed to the team as a manufacturing member, learning how to build our airplane. From there, I worked across all of the team’s engineering project areas, becoming the manufacturing lead during my third year competing. It was my responsibility to make sure we had the materials and manpower to execute the design team’s vision.

Almost like a dream, my experiences throughout the years with DBF led to an internship with Aurora Flight Sciences, a Boeing Company. First, I met some people that work at Aurora at AIAA SciTech Forum’s Meet the Employers event, and I thought they were working on some really cool projects. Aurora is a big supporter of DBF, so the following year when I saw their CEO and President John Langford in Wichita, Kansas, I walked up to him and introduced myself. I’m really glad I did, we talked about what I was doing in school, why I was participating in DBF, and my future goals.

The conversation ultimately led to being offered a summer internship in mechanical engineering. During my summer with Aurora, I supported the propulsion test group, taking the data they collected from various tests and reducing it down to a single question, “yes or no, does this work?” The highlight was working on control surface actuators. When I came on board, the design was still in its early stages, and I was able to help take it from design and performance to 3D models to testing and beyond. It was an amazing experience, which all started with an AIAA student program.”

Zac McDonough, Aerospace Engineering Student, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) has dedicated itself to shaping the future of aerospace and our future is YOU. We are committed to providing resources, educational experiences, and activities that engage students through meaningful involvement. Enhance your college experience by becoming an AIAA student member.

AIAA student members have leadership opportunities, practical and compelling content at their fingertips, and access to unmatched benefits. Let AIAA support you and assist in your professional development. Utilize AIAA’s network to be inspired and connect with aerospace peers from around the world. The contacts you make may even lead to a job after you graduate!

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Your Connection on Campus

AIAA Student Branches are your base of operations during your college years. Meet fellow students who share your passion and commitment to aerospace. Student branches foster opportunities for collaboration with engineering students from other departments and aid in the educational development of their members.

Nearly 200 campuses worldwide have an AIAA student branch. To find out if your university or college has one, visit aiaa.org/StudentBranches.
AIAA connects a network of nearly 30,000 student and professional members from around the world. We provide opportunities to collaborate, forge relationships, and engage with executive management at leading aerospace companies.

**Engage**
AIAA Engage allows you to connect with all of your fellow AIAA members online. Find your community and join the conversation.

**Local Section Events**
Network with engineers and aerospace professionals near you. Many students find mentors in their local sections who can help guide them throughout their career.

**Design Competitions**
Compete with fellow students for the opportunity to win prizes while addressing real-world challenges.

**Student Paper Conferences**
Present your research in a technical meeting atmosphere to enhance your leadership skills and compete for cash prizes.

“I’M GRATEFUL TO AIAA for helping me through my college career. I’ve achieved everything that I set out to when I left India 7 years ago. I have been lucky enough to publish journal articles and obtain multiple scholarships from AIAA. But more importantly, the services AIAA provided by allowing student researchers to publish articles and also organizing DBF competitions have been immensely valuable.”

*Libin Daniel, Flight Test Engineer, Gulfstream Aerospace*
We want you to succeed in college and beyond. When you become an AIAA student member, you gain access to career help and opportunities for financial assistance.

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Browse the latest jobs in the aerospace industry, post your resume, get assistance with resume writing, and receive career coaching.

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Kate Stamper, Aerospace Engineering Graduate Student, University of Tennessee Space Institute

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