Alnylam’s Summer Intern & Co-Op Programs provide talented undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to gain industry exposure, practical experience and mentoring. Alnylam is a dynamic, rapidly growing, Kendall Square-based biopharmaceutical company at the cutting-edge of drug development.

Alnylam is developing an entirely new class of innovative medicines based on a breakthrough discovery in biology known as RNA interference, or RNAi. With RNAi technology, we have the opportunity to treat disease and impact the lives of patients in a fundamentally new way.

Internships and co-ops are designed to create a meaningful learning experience which enhances overall professional goals and reflects on accomplishments towards personal development. In addition to professional development, these programs are designed to develop industry knowledge and soft skill advancement. Our internships and co-ops strive to balance the students’ learning objectives with organizational needs.

There are a number of departments that participate in these programs, including but not limited to: Biology, Chemistry, Clinical Operations, Commercial, Human Resources, Medical Affairs, Manufacturing, Regulatory Affairs, Finance, Drug Safety, and Corporate Communications.

Alnylam’s Science and RNAi Platform

RNAi was first discovered in the purple petunia flower and later translated into worms by biologists Andrew Fire and Craig Mello, marking a major scientific breakthrough while establishing a new frontier in drug development. Alnylam’s mission is to build a top-tier biopharmaceutical company founded on RNAi. Alnylam’s approved, and pipeline, of investigational therapies work upstream of today’s medicines by silencing the messenger RNA (mRNA) that is transcribed into disease-causing or disease-contributing proteins. Through RNAi, patients are treated in a fundamentally new way.
Founded in 2002, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals established an unwavering commitment to harnessing the power of RNA interference (RNAi) for treating rare conditions for patients with high unmet medical needs. Alnylam has led the translation of RNAi to an innovative class of approved and investigational medicines used to treat a wide range of diseases using its powerful, clinically validated approach. In the summer of 2018, Alnylam established a new class of medicines, pioneering the delivery of RNAi therapeutics to patients through the FDA and EMA approval of ONPATTRO™ (patisiran). This is the first of multiple launches anticipated in the “Alnylam P^5x25” guidance for the advancement and commercialization of RNAi therapeutics. The passionate and dedicated employees at Alnylam look forward to delivering its medicines to patients who need them around the world.

To those who say “impossible, impractical, unrealistic,” we say: CHALLENGE ACCEPTED
We are relentless in our pursuit of new treatments. Because patients shouldn’t have to wait for hope.

An Award-Winning Company

Company Snapshot

>2k Employees  20 Countries  11 Programs Currently in Clinical Development  5 Approved Products*  >40 Clinical Studies to Date  >6yrs Longest Duration of Exposure

Updated as of March 2023

“RNAi has been heralded as a major scientific breakthrough that happens once every decade or so.”

Phillip Sharp, Ph.D.
Noble Laureate & Founder of Alnylam
"My time at Alnylam has been very educational and helpful for the future as I started this co-op only having previous medical experience. I wanted to be involved with hands-on laboratory work, and I have gotten that opportunity, as well as to be part of a team that divides up responsibilities. As a whole, Alnylam has a great work culture and is helping to improve the lives of those with rare diseases through its medicine and research."

Vishrut Gupta, Co-op, Analytical Development

"The best part about working at Alnylam is the people – everyone is extremely friendly and more than willing to help educate and assist their fellow employees. Co-oping at Alnylam has given me the opportunity to be a part of a team that values their interns’ opinions and insights, and has given me a comprehensive view of the different functions within a pharmaceutical company."

Natalie Jones, Co-op, Financial Planning & Analysis

"Coming to Alnylam, I was a Mechanical Engineering student who wanted to explore a different company function, in this case, procurement. With little to no experience in a business field I cannot overstress the benefit of walking into such a welcoming environment! The knowledge and experience that I have gained throughout my time at Alnylam have helped to broaden my view on what I want to pursue in my career as well as how to bring a positive, driven attitude to all of my endeavors."

Dylan Goodwin, Co-op, Procurement

"My Master’s co-op in clinical operations at Alnylam has been incredibly eye-opening and informative. I didn’t realize how much really went into executing a clinical trial and getting patients enrolled in a study. I’ve been lucky to help out with things like site activation, CRO correspondences, data management, and much more. Through my experience I’ve gained a better understanding of the importance of clinical trials and the impact they have on patient’s lives."

Madelyn Rubenstein, Co-op, Clinical Operations

"I started my co-op in medical affairs during the Fall of 2018. During my experience, I contributed to various projects, and gained valuable skills that I would have never learned in classes. I was grateful for the freedom to explore both within and outside of medical affairs by attending speaker panels with the other co-ops, and even assisting with projects in different departments. As a pharmacy student, I also had the guidance of the PharmD fellows who helped highlight the value of the work I was doing. I had the opportunity to stay on as a contractor after my co-op ended, and I continue to learn and grow every day I’m here."

Victoria Guan, PharmD Fellow (ex-co-op), Medical Affairs

"After multiple co-ops with Alnylam, I felt confident heading to graduation with the foundation I needed to succeed in a quickly evolving industry. While working at Alnylam post-graduation seemed like a natural fit, I was pleasantly met with a new wave of challenges and growth opportunities that have kept me engaged and satisfied with each day since."

Andrew Wilson, Sr. Buyer (ex-co-op), Procurement
Intern Perspectives

“The best thing about Alnylam is the people who constantly encourage you to do better and support you throughout. I’m a Ph.D. student in Health Economics and working with the Value and Evidence Strategy (Medical Affairs) team has been a valuable experience. It has given me an opportunity that I’ve been looking for and has helped me understand the deeper insights into the industry and real-world setting. The knowledge that I have gained throughout this internship was much more than I ever did in classes. Alnylam has a great work culture and the overall summer internship experience has been enriching both personally and professionally.”

Kshitij Prabhune, Intern, Value and Evidence Strategy

“The summer internship was a really wonderful experience for me. It was a great opportunity to learn from the leading group in RNAi formulations. Alnylam has a great cohesively interactive work culture that provides opportunities for us to learn from experts in different fields. More importantly, our individual thoughts and opinions are heard and respected. I am happy that I could contribute my effort to Alnylam. I believe the knowledge and experience I have gained during my internship will help a lot for my future career in the pharmaceutical world.”

Tingting Li, Intern, Process Chemistry

“My time at Alnylam has been enriching and eye-opening. With every challenge I was able to learn more about myself and my interests. The internship allowed me to focus on my strengths in marketing and graphic design through helping in various projects associated to: tactical planning, creating marketing materials, data management, and much more. Being here has given me the opportunity to be a part of a team that values their interns’ insights and are conducive to helping them grow.”

Danilo Martinez, Intern, Global Marketing

“My favorite thing I’ve learned at Alnylam is to operate under the assumption of good intent. That’s something I hope to carry with me forever. Especially at a company growing at breakneck speed, it’s crucial to trust your colleagues, the platform, and yourself. At Alnylam, everyone seems incredibly busy but in reality, they’re more than willing to listen to any concerns, questions, or interests you have. Because I expressed interest, I’ve worked in the vivarium, the biology lab, on the Patient Advocacy and Engagement team, and closely with Accounts Payable and Finance. There are so many people willing to teach you, but you have to learn to speak up!”

Olivia Bonardi, Intern, Patient Advocacy & Engagement

“Before my internship at Alnylam, I had done research in several academic labs, but never in an industrial setting. Alnylam was a wonderful place to have that first exposure. I had a meaningful project that had a real impact for my group and a manager who was supportive every step of the way. On top of that, I formed some incredible connections with other interns and employees at the company, making my time both educational and enjoyable. My summer at Alnylam was extremely rewarding and gave me a far clearer picture of what I want to do with my life, which is everything I wanted out of an internship!”

Daniel Sellers, Intern, Bioanalytical Sciences
Alnylam is located in the heart of Cambridge, right across the Charles River and from downtown Boston. Wherever you are, you’ll be a short T ride away from the famous Fenway Park, Downtown, or Harvard Square. We are surrounded by top tier academic and research institutions: Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Broad Institute, and more. The area is teeming with pioneers of innovation who are committed to intellectual curiosity and scientific advancement. The greater Boston area is a melting pot of culture, offering world-class attractions and rich history. All around the city are a vast amount of activities to do and sights to see, such as going kayaking in the Charles, visiting Faneuil Hall and the historic North End, going to the Museum of Science, or simply taking a walk around the Esplanade. Explore everything Boston has to offer and make the best of your time here!
How are internships and co-ops different?

- A co-op is an educational program in which you alternate semesters of academic study with semesters of full-time employment in positions related to your academic and/or career interests.
- A co-op typically lasts six months, in which students receive credit from their university for the full-time work experience.
- Alnylam’s co-op program is only available to students who attend universities with established cooperative education systems. Specifically at Alnylam, our co-ops work during the fall and spring, while our summer internship program runs through the summer months.
- Internships are available to all university students and can be either part-time or full-time.

Where are the internships and co-ops located?

- They are located at our Cambridge, MA headquarters in Kendall Square.

When are they offered?

- Summer internships are offered in the summer months and typically last three months.
- Co-ops are offered during the fall and spring academic semesters and typically last six months, in which students receive credit from their university for the full-time work experience.

What do you require to be eligible?

- In order to qualify for an internship at Alnylam you must be a current undergraduate or graduate student and be legally eligible to work in the U.S.

How are interns and co-ops paid?

- Alnylam offers interns and co-ops a competitive hourly rate through our payroll department.
- Alnylam does not pay or reimburse for any living costs associated with these programs.

For more information visit alnylam.com/careers