

Intern Spotlight:



Meet Adrian!

Name: Adrian Silva

Major: Mechanical Engineering

College: College of Engineering & Computer Science

Internship:

Idaho National Laboratory,

Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Intern (Summer/Fall 2023)



How did you obtain your internship?

I obtained my internship by attending a mock-interview practice set up by the UTRGV Career Center. At this event I was matched with the director of the division I now work in. After the mock-interview, we followed up at an info session on campus for the INL and spoke about next steps in the hiring process.

What did you do during your internship? What were your responsibilities/duties?

During my internship, I authored a comprehensive report on metallic fuel fabrication methods and material feed streams, with a focus on Experimental Breeder Reactor-II (EBR-II) metallic fuel for the Advanced Fuels Campaign. In addition, I led and performed hands-on work on a fabrication study of core fuel elements made by swaging fuel cladding directly onto annular extruded metallic fuel slugs. I also oversaw and actively participated in hands-on tasks including casting, alloying, refining, and sample characterization of radioactive material within radiological facilities at the Materials and Fuels Complex. Lastly, I acquired qualifications for performing radiological work within radiation and radioactively contaminated environments.

What was the exciting aspect of your internship?

The most exciting aspect of the internship was the opportunity to work hands on with nuclear material and the opportunity to contribute to the future of nuclear energy.

What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?

My biggest recommendation to future interns is to be proactive and to build professional relationships with as many people in the organization as you can. Most of the rewarding parts of an internship, like career experience and mentoring, are generated by the work you put into the experience. Professional relationships allow you to explore outside the scope of your direct responsibilities and give a clearer picture of the organization of which you are working with.

How has the Career Center supported you in your career development?

The Career Center has greatly supported my career development by providing resume assistance and hosting events, such as mock-interviews with real employers. Because of these resources I was able to successfully obtain my internship at the INL.

For more information about the **Student Intern Spotlight** program, please contact the Career Center at 956-665-2243 or email careercenter@utrgv.edu.