

Summer Intern (Advocacy & Communications) – AIRTO (Managed by NZTC)

AIRTO – the Association of Innovation, Research & Technology Organisations – is seeking a Summer Intern to help articulate our position on the critical importance of talent and skills for innovation in the UK. The role will be overseen by AIRTO and delivered under our management contract with the Net Zero Technology Centre (NZTC). This is a hands-on internship focused on evaluating and consolidating current and future member priorities in relation to talent and skills development.

Key information

- **Contract:** Fixed-term summer internship
- **Duration:** [8 weeks between July and September 2026]
- **Hours:** [up to 18 hours per week; flexible working considered]
- **Location:** [Aberdeen / hybrid]
- **Salary:** [£13.45 per hour]
- **Start date:** [Flexible - July 2026]

Role purpose

AIRTO has consistently highlighted the importance of developing multi-skilled professionals equipped for research commercialisation, and the key role that the government has to play in ensuring that the UK can develop and attract global talent to translate research into commercial success.

The purpose of this internship is to build upon this foundation to streamline AIRTO's messaging on this critical topic. It is envisaged that certain AI models will be used such as google AI to gather existing published information; Co-pilot to construct the narrative components of AIRTO's position.

Working alongside AIRTO and NZTC colleagues, the internship will be structured to develop content for a new thought leadership opinion piece, supported by case studies.

Key responsibilities

These could include:

- Reviewing recent policy developments, and summarising AIRTO's recent position.
- Drafting a short questionnaire for members about emerging talent needs, focusing on research commercialisation, green technologies, and digital skills.
- Conducting short interviews with selected members (alongside AIRTO's Policy and Member Relations Advisor).

- Sourcing/producing short case studies to highlight the role of AIRTO members in developing talent and skills.
- Drafting copy for a possible dedicated 'Talent & Skills' section on the AIRTO Website.
- Drafting the outline for a new AIRTO Position Statement or an opinion piece advocating for increased support to develop commercialisation skills.

Anticipated outputs during the internship

- Case studies and position statement offering refined advocacy and messaging and drafts of possible public-facing content.
- A handover dossier and a short presentation for the management team on recommended next steps.
- This may include: drafted web copy, member insights, prototypes of possible social media posts, and a structural outline for a new thought leadership opinion piece.

Skills and experience

Essential

- Strong written communication skills and attention to detail, with an ability to and plan content.
- Confidence in undertaking both desk-based research to gather evidence and conducting face to face discussions to gather information, and secure support/assistance from stakeholders.
- Organised approach; able to manage multiple small tasks and meet deadlines.
- Comfortable working with a range of stakeholders and incorporating feedback.
- Competent with Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, TEAMS).

Desirable

- Experience drafting social posts, newsletters, or web copy (personal, university, or work-based).
- Experience using of artificial intelligence to gather information.
- Basic understanding of advocacy.
- Interest in research and innovation.

Who should apply

This internship would suit students (undergraduate or postgraduate) or recent graduates in communications, marketing, business, public relations, journalism,

politics/policy, or related disciplines, who enjoy translating complex work into clear messages and practical plans and are keen to acquire some work experience.

Reporting

The intern will report to AIRTO's Executive Director, and work closely with our Policy and Member Relations Advisor. The role will also interface with other AIRTO and NZTC colleagues as required (e.g., for approvals, alignment to communications standards, and access to relevant updates).

What you will gain

- Scope to work independently
- Guidance and personal development opportunities
- Practical experience in developing communications/position statements
- A chance to build your portfolio and professional network

How to apply

Please submit:

- A CV (maximum 2 pages)
- A short covering note (maximum 1 page) outlining why you are interested in this opportunity and how your skills match the role, highlighting exemplars where appropriate (e.g., any relevant writing samples or content which you have created)
- Optional: a short writing sample or link to content you have created (e.g., a LinkedIn post, blog, or newsletter excerpt)

Closing date: 8 June 2026 Interviews: mid-June 2026 Start date: July 2026

Additional information

Equal opportunities: AIRTO and NZTC are committed to creating an inclusive environment and welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates. If you require reasonable adjustments at any stage of the recruitment process, please let us know.

Data protection: Any personal information you provide will be used for recruitment purposes only and handled in accordance with applicable data protection requirements.

ABOUT AIRTO: [AIRTO](#) - the Association of Innovation, Research & Technology Organisations, represents the UK's extensive Innovation, Research and Technology (IRT)

sector, which employs 57,000 highly skilled people, has a combined annual turnover of £6.9Bn and contributes £34Bn to UK GDP. AIRTO has approximately 60 organisations in membership. Organisations in this critical sector work with government, academia and industry, (from construction to industrial machinery and personal protective equipment to food and space technology) to promote and support the introduction of innovation to the full range of industrial sectors, and to provide technical solutions to new challenges and crises. The IRT sector is a key partner for industry in delivering the support needed for innovation driven economic growth.