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**Why Intern**

**By Sheena Salmon**

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Why Intern?

The job market is tight and the fact is we all need to get-in where we can fit-in. Graduates are scrambling to find a job but that is not going to be easy. Employers are expecting more from graduates than they did a couple years ago. One thing that has not changed is the employer's desire for experience. One way to get experience is through internships. Internships can be an advantage to you in many ways.

First, an internship will give you the experience that so many employers are looking for. Noooo..., you will not get an executives position, but you will be better qualified than some of your fellow recent graduates. You may get real world experience in areas that you are not learning in school. It may be with software that your classes don't cover or methods of solving problems that you didn't previously learn. You actually might get to find out why you need to the Pythagorean Theorem or maybe not. But you do get the experience.

Secondly, an internship is the way for you to network and networking is important. Networking allows you to rub shoulders with people that do what you want to do and know those that do what you want to do. Many jobs are often obtained in the hidden job market, jobs that are not publicly advertised. Who gets these hidden jobs? Somebody who knows somebody.

Thirdly, you can get a great reference for when you apply for jobs in the future. If you prove yourself well you will most likely get a glowing recommendation from the company you interned. In fact, you may actually get a job with the company. They know you and have already established a relationship with you. They also see the skills and abilities that you will bring to their business.

Fourth, most internships offer the opportunity to earn credits from your school. So an internship can be thought of as an elective class.

Fifth, an internship can be paid. That just speaks for itself.

Most importantly, you will find out if this career that your going to school for and shelling out thousands of dollars for is really for you. You can switch your major now instead of wasting years in a job you cannot stand. Instead of coming back to school to shell out thousands more dollars to pursue the career you really like.

Why not intern?

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### **Internships: A Career Move For You?**

**By Shannon Columbo**

An internship is an opportunity for job-seekers to gain experience in the business world without having to work a full-time job. Internships are placements, generally for students, where the intern works for lower pay than if they were hired employees. An internship has a set duration of time, as well. The benefit of an internship is education; it gives you experience to list on your resume.

Internships are ideal for students at all levels who are looking for experience in certain fields. Internships are also helpful for people who are looking to change careers and wish to gain experience in a new field.

There are many different kinds of internships. There are paid, unpaid, and partially paid internships. Internships in the science and technology fields are often paid. Partially paid internships are remunerated in the form of a stipend, awarded at the beginning or end of the internship. A stipend is a sum of money that is granted not on a yearly salary or hourly wage basis. Stipends are given once. Volunteer internships are good ways to gain experience, and are no less valuable on your resume when you go to find a job.

You can get full-time or part-time internships. Some students choose to work at a full-time internship during the summer. There are benefits to each kind of internship. Full-time internships are often paid, and they give interns a fairly accurate idea of what life is like in the field: be it shift-work or 9-5 computer based office work. Part-time internship work is beneficial when you are not being paid so that you can have another job as your main source of income. It also facilitates career changes because it means that you can work in one field and intern in another. It gives a taste of a field to the intern, perhaps while they are doing school, so they know what they will be looking for and what they will be looking to avoid when they enter the job market.

There are government-sponsored internships in Canada and the United States. These internships are sometimes political, where you work in Parliament or on Capitol Hill. There are other government-sponsored internships that are language-based or skills based. Check out your federal and state or provincial governments because they often offer internships. Some of these internships are youth internship opportunities. These can have a specific age requirement, for example, it might require the applicant to be between 18-30 years of age.

## Why Intern

Universities and colleges often offer internship programs. You can ask at your campus career services to find out how your school can help you place in a work environment. Some of these internships might even count for credit towards your degree, or perhaps be counted on your transcript.

There are also private–sector internships that you can discover. Some of these are at well–established corporations who have one or more internship position each summer or each year to fill. Your school might also be able to help you discover these internships, but it is still ultimately up to you research and find internship opportunities.

International internships are sometimes run by the government or by post–secondary schools. These can also be run by private companies. International internships most often have a language component. These offer inexpensive ways to travel as well as the benefit of relevant work experience.

Interns go through a hiring process that is similar to that for a job. Prospective interns will be asked to hand in a resume and cover letter, as well as potentially references. There will probably be an interview component of the application process. Internships can be more competitive to acquire than other jobs because of the many advantages they offer in the job market. The interview is a suitable time for the employer to explain what they expect from the intern, and for the intern to ask questions about what the internship will be like. It is important to establish the hours of an internship, the duration, the supervision, and the expectations.

There are many advantages to an internship aside from simply the experience–based elements. Often, you will receive mentorship in an internship program. You will have an opportunity to network. You will receive references for the work that you accomplished, sometimes in the form of a written letter.

Interning is often an important step before entering a career in a certain field. Good luck as you begin to enter the workforce in the field of your dreams!

When you are applying to your internship, make sure that you get the position you want by having the resume that stands out. Visit

[http://www.theguideto-resumes.com/writing\\_a\\_resume/temp\\_agencies\\_and\\_placement\\_firms/](http://www.theguideto-resumes.com/writing_a_resume/temp_agencies_and_placement_firms/)

for more

information on how to get the job.



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