

Get An
Internship

Chris Sims

5 W's + H

Tools

The Résumé

The Interview

The Internship

Get An Internship

Tips and Tricks

Chris Sims

25 Feb 2013

Outline

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What Are We Talking About?

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- Finding a suitable internship, either over the summer or part-time during the semester
- Applying for said internship
- Interviewing
- Having a fun and successful internship

Who Should Get An Internship?

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An internship offers valuable experience and pay for anyone looking to get into a career of software development.

You could probably get a decent job without an internship, but you can do better with one. Why not increase your chances to get your dream job?

But Should I Really?

Why not? It shows that you care about your career, you enjoy the work, you'll get paid to learn more, and it's usually fun!

Why Should I Go Through the Effort?

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- Experience
- Pay
- Required (499)
- Future job opportunities
- Networking

When Should I Start Looking?

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Generally towards the start of Spring term for a summer internship. Employers have started to realize that if they want the best intern candidate, they need to start looking earlier in the year. Correspondingly, if you're looking for a great internship, the best will continue to fill the longer you wait.

Often summer internships will roll into the term, but if you're looking to start mid-term with a new internship, the best time to start looking is now!

Where to Look

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There are a number of methods that companies use to list positions and to find candidates:

Find positions

- Craigslist
- Monster.com
- Company websites
- Networking

Find candidates

- Internship/Career Fair
- LinkedIn
- Stack Overflow Careers
- Networking

How Do I Find a Good One?

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There are a few items to take into consideration when looking:

- Is it a listing for an internship position?
- What languages do they mention in the intern posting?
- What does the company do? Does this interest you?
- Is there any information about what you'd be working on?

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- Craigslist - cheap, quick, easy, localized
- Monster.com
- Dice.com

Want A LinkedIn Example?

My LinkedIn Profile

LinkedIn

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LinkedIn is a valuable tool that's used to find and identify candidates.

Take the time to fill it out with:

- Experience
- Classes taken
- Projects completed
- Skills (languages, tools, etc.)

Remember to customize towards what you're looking for!

The Résumé(s)

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The résumé is the main thing that conveys who you are to a potential employer. It's vital to keep a few things in mind when building it:

- Should have a cover letter if possible - not a generic one!
- Keep it updated - check it once a quarter, or just before a job search
- Keep it brief - should be 1 page
- Tailor it for different positions
- Don't list everything you've ever done - what's actually important?

Contact me if you want to see the résumé that I use.

The Interview

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Things to know beforehand

- What does the company do?
- Who am I interviewing with? What do they do?
- What position am I interviewing for?

Questions to ask/talk about during the interview

- Clarify the position that you're interviewing for
- What is the dev process like?
- What kind of tools/languages do they use?
- Any cool perks like seminars, training, etc?

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Obviously this depends greatly on where you work, but you'll notice a few things:

- Some form of version control (git or svn most likely)
- Code can be messy, and documentation will likely be sparse or non-existent
- It will take time to really understand a project if it's been around for any period of time. Take the time to read any documentation, and get help with parts of the codebase you don't understand.

Final Tips

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- Ask questions!
- Documentation is your friend - find official documentation for the language(s) and the framework(s) and use them often
- Employers want to hire people that want to be there - you can show that in many different ways
- Take pride in your work
- Have fun!