Internship Workshop

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Getting the Contacts

* Meetups/Workshops
  + You’ll likely be the only student there, making it a great place to network with engineers already in the industry. Even if you aren’t experienced at all, the fact that you’re interested and willing to learn means a lot to them.
  + Find meetups/hackathons/coding competitions on meetups.com
* Hackathons/Coding Competitions
  + Great place to start personal projects and network.
  + Many companies use these as a way to find interns.
  + Shaun received an offer for an interview after participating at a Microsoft sponsored event.
* Job Fairs
  + Bring as many resumes as you can. Don’t bring 5, bring 70.
  + Companies often bring engineers with them to screen for potential interns/employees.
* Online job/internship hunting
  + AngelList
    - When you leave a note for a position, write about what interests you about the position and why you would be a good fit.
  + LinkedIn
    - While searching for jobs on AngelList, Hired, etc, see if you can find the hiring manager or recruiter’s name. Look them up on LinkedIn, invite them to your circle thing, and say you saw their posting on [insert service here] and that you’d like to know more about it.
* General Application
  + Applying is a game of numbers. If only 10% of all companies accept your application then you’ll have to send out at least 100 applications for 10 acceptances. Rejection is simply part of the game and there’s nothing wrong with falling flat on your face.
  + While 100 sounds like a lot, try to build your sent application list gradually.
    - Try to aim for 5-6 applications a day.
  + Recruiters
    - They generally face rejection 100x as much as you do from engineers, so if you reach out to them for an internship or job position they’ll (more often than not) be more than happy to help!
  + Getting a job at a specific company
    - Try to network and go to events where their engineers/managers would go.
    - Use their API
  + Make lists
    - Find at least 15 companies you’d like to work for and make a list of them.
      * Keep said list updated with application status/etc

The Cover Letter

* Length
  + Nothing longer than 1-2 paragraphs.
  + If you don’t like reading it, neither will the recruiter.
* Tone/content
  + Keep it casual
  + Imagine you’re telling a friend why you’re interested and a good choice for the position.
  + Don’t put their address.
  + No “dear sir or madam”
  + Yes “Hi! My name is x and I’m interested in this position because y”
  + They tell you exactly what they’re looking for in the job listing, so tell them what they want to hear.
  + Bullshit but don’t lie, sell yourself.
  + Think about if you yourself were to own a company. How would you phrase a cover letter for meant to impress you?
* Should you include one?
  + Yes.

The Resume

* Work history
  + Only include tech related positions for tech related jobs.
* Projects
  + Projects back up your skills..
* Skills
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The Interview

* Pseudo Code
  + When doing interview questions always start the question with pseudo code. It’s easy to lose yourself in code if you get into it and pseudo code allows you to clarify what the interviewer’s asking for in the question.
* Non-technical portion
  + Try to portray that working at whichever company you’re interviewing for is your dream job/position.
  + Be excited!
  + Like your cover letter, bullshit but don’t lie. Remember to sell yourself.
  + Research the company for 20-30 minutes so you know what they’re about. You might be working there afterall.
  + If you know the name of whoever is interviewing you, find them on linkedin. See if you have common interests and bring those topics up if they’re relevant to the conversation during interview.
  + Try to tell a story of who you are and what you can do.
* Questions you should have for them
  + About their day to day activities.
  + How they maintain “engineering excellence”
  + Team culture
  + What’s important to the company as in values/goals/etc.
* Post Interview
  + During the interview itself, establish a timeframe in which they’d get back to you. If they say a week, feel free to send an email asking about it on day 8. Be considerate and don’t spam them. One email is enough.

Personal Thoughts

Everybody has their own way to best interview and look for jobs. Depending on who you ask, you can get completely different answers from the very same question when it comes to this topic. As we’re all very different people when it comes to intro and extroversion some parts may speak to you and others may not. If there’re any parts that you wholly disagree with or it just doesn’t seem your type of thing, that’s perfectly fine. There’re many ways to go about looking for jobs or internships and styling your resume and cover letter, so at the very least you can use this to get yourself pointed in the right direction!