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# *Informatics Internship Search*

InfPALS Week 7

# Agenda

- > Introduction to internships
- > Internship alternatives
- > University internships
- > Where to look for internships

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# Introduction to Internships



# What is an internship?

- > **Paid placement in a company**
  - Legally, internships in the UK must be paid, with the exception of volunteering
- > **Research-focused or industrial**
  - Tons of companies and universities offer internships, where you may be helping to research new cutting-edge technologies, or working on customer-facing software, or manipulating databases
- > **May/June → August**
  - Typically a summer internship lasts between 10-12 weeks

## Why do an internship

- > Gain experience
- > Develop new skills
- > Can help in interviews and on your CV
- > Apply studying to real world applications
- > Build connections
- > Decide if a career is right for you
- > Gain references

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# Internship Alternatives



- > You do not have to do an internship!
- > There are many other ways to gain skills and experience, depending on your goals and needs.
- > Internships are competitive and time-consuming, since you typically need to be working the whole summer. Taking the summer to relax, travel, or catch up with friends could be beneficial towards preventing burn-out when returning to study next year!

## > Company Insights

- Many programs offer Insight Weeks (also known as Spring Weeks) to early careers (Year 1 and 2) students.
- Shorter than an internship but provides networking opportunities and gives you a snapshot experience into roles available.
- Might benefit you if you want to apply to the same company for an internship later!
- Very common with big banks (e.g. NatWest), but starting to occur in other industries.



## > Projects

- If you have limited experience, building your portfolio can help you to get more jobs in the future and gives you something to talk about in interviews.
- Try to focus on what you enjoy and want to do after graduating (e.g. if you want to work as a web developer, build a project using web technologies - look online for the best modern technologies to learn and stand out).
- Try looking for societies to find others so you can get practise working in a group and potentially build something even bigger!

## > Online Courses

- If you don't have the experience to build a full project, try learning something new and build your skills first.
- You can further develop skills taught at university (by learning more complex OOP) or something completely new (like web development or machine learning!)
- Lots of courses are available for free via edX, Coursera, etc.
- You also have free access to LinkedIn Learning whilst you are a student.

## > Summer job

- Working in a non-related field could still provide many advantages to you, such as references and customer service skills
- A summer job would broaden your horizons and expose you to more people, while working part-time still allows you to pursue the aforementioned project work or take courses to fill out your time.

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# University Internships



## Employe.ed on Campus

- > The University of Edinburgh offers internships to students in year 2 and above via the Employe.ed scheme.
  - o Great opportunity to work with fellow students and members of staff
- > Roles available in anything from Data Science, Finance, to Estates.
- > You can also complete the Edinburgh Award alongside the internship, which will go on your HEAR transcript for when you graduate.

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# Where to look for internships



## Examples of Year 1 and 2 schemes

- > Many companies prefer to hire penultimate year students (3rd year for most of you), as they graduate the following year.
- > These are some examples of programmes that have run previously. Keep an eye on these schemes!
  - Meta University
  - Google STEP
  - Google Summer of Code
  - Microsoft New Technologists
  - Codepath
  - Amazon Future Engineer
  - GCHQ Cyber Insights Summer School
  - Skyscanner Internships
  - Civil Service Fast Stream

## Other places to find opportunities

- > **Job boards provide huge lists of openings in all companies**
  - The volume of openings may be overwhelming, so make sure you set filters when you search to save time scrolling and look at jobs most relevant to you!
- > **Examples of useful job boards:**
  - Indeed.com
  - LinkedIn Jobs page
  - Ratemyplacement.co.uk
- > **Networking also gives you a chance to make connections with future employers and be contacted by recruiters.**
  - It is useful to have an up-to-date LinkedIn profile with your classes and graduation year
  - Some smaller technology companies are active on Twitter and can be contacted on there



## Next Steps

- > InfPALS will be running sessions to prepare you for technical and behavioural interviews

# Any questions?

Feel free to ask the leaders questions!

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**Thank you!**