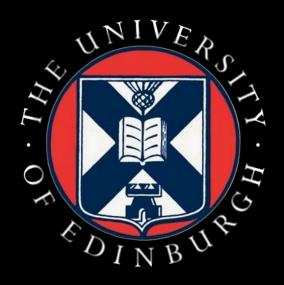
# Informatics Internship Search

InfPALS Week 7

## Agenda

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

# Introduction to Internships



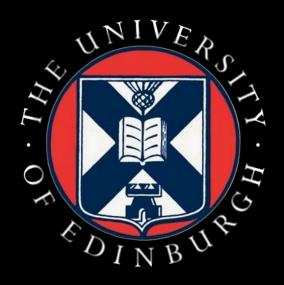
## What is an internship?

- > 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

# 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.

# University Internships



## **Employe.ed on Campus**

- > The University of Edinburgh offers internships to students in year 2 and above via the Employ.ed scheme.
  - 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.

# 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!

# Thank you!