

Find Beginner Internship as a CUNY student

By: Mr.Qi

Introduction

Internship is one of the most desirable employment options as a college student. But where do we begin to look for that sweet internship? How do CUNY students navigate and utilize their resources to get internships? What are some of the trade offs and downsides? How likely are we able to get an internship?

What is an internship and Why do we need an internship?

Internship is a duration of employment at a company for learning valuable skills and gaining work experience. Internship is one of the fastest ways a student can increase their employability but is also one of the hardest hurdles that students need to jump over. From an employer perspective, giving out internships for students because it helps weed out potential low quality students, build networks with students with potential, labor tax write offs and increase productivity of the company. For students, an internship is a great thing to put on a resume, great pay, great experience and good networking with potential future employers. In short, internships provide a mutually beneficial solution for both students and employers.

Where to look for an internship?

You can look for an internship on sites like linkedin, glassdoor, indeed and NYC job board. However as a Hunter student you have access to [CUNY2X](#) newsletter. The news letter is often very useful for looking into full time opportunities and internships. There are also other cuny resources such as [Cuny internship](#) job search engine and [Career Hunter](#). There are also dedicated resources at hunter that will help you to secure an unpaid or paid internship. The unpaid internship will be rewarding the student in terms of credits. The resource is known as [internship 101](#) The coordinator will help the student to pair up with a company to work. Cuny as an organization will also have internships available for any CUNY students. Lots of opportunity to get paid work experience.

List of the options of CUNY internship / Beginner internship

I've compiled a list of links that I know but there are more internships out. There are many internships such as MTA internship, MTA fellowship and other programs that dedicate it's resources to make sure students become successful.

Ladders 4 Leaders	SYEP	Internship 101	Coding it forward
Spring Forward	Career Launch	I2E Internship	Break Through Tech
MLH fellowship	NY Jobs CEO council apprentice network (The form is only provided through CUNY email)	IBM accelerate program	

Should I do an unpaid internship?

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Should you do an unpaid internship? It is okay to do an unpaid internship but keep in mind that there are better opportunities out in the world. Is definitely okay to do an unpaid internship if you don't have employability. But you shouldn't do more than 2 unpaid internships in your student career because it will be wasting your time to contribute to an internship that doesn't value your time. After the first or the second unpaid internship you should have a substantial amount of work experience and development experience that you can get hired at a paid internship. Or at the very least able to do personal projects without help.

What is expected for the internship?

Even if you're an intern at the company. You shouldn't make yourself feel bad during the internship. If the company demands a toxic workload, doesn't give out breaks, disrespect your work, doesn't teach you, no proper setup or bad coworkers. You should immediately drop out of the internship. Because you're a human with respect for yourself.

How to interview for an internship?

Interview is like a first date, you want to keep a good first impression. So you need to express all your strength and all your good points to the interviewer so that they don't waste time on you. You also need to express the desire for that internship, knowing what product the company provides, preparing for the technical interview and not giving a bad sign to the employer about your behavior.

Behavior aspect of the internship is very important to the interview. If you fail the technical you cannot also fail the behavioral. Because introducing a co-worker to a new environment is very hard. Since every group needs time to "merge". If you do not fit in with the group, it is most likely that you won't get as much help for your work and it will be hard giving you more tasks or learning. Since coworkers are pretty much dependent on each other if you're trying to learn about the tech in the company.

Technical aspect of the internship is the second most important to the interview. The evaluation of your technical will varies, either a leetcode questions, riddles, problems to solve or design questions. The technical questions are not meant to get the questions correct but to show that you're a capable question solver. Make sure to talk about the entire problem solving process. But, being able to solve these problems can make you stand out from hundreds of people who have grinded leetcode. So if you're applying to a big to medium size company, make sure to brush up on leetcode and hackerrank.

Confidence is key to winning the team over. Do not be overly intimidating but to be humble and capable. The personality should be a warm, intelligent, passionate, independent coder who wants to be part of a team that will create value for their mission. Ideally. You should also list out some accomplishments you have in the past to talk about your experience in the past. What you've learned from the internships. Emphasize soft skills once you pass the technical part of the interview.

Star method answer for behavioral

Engage your audience by providing a quick nice story using the star method. Everyone loves a good story and that good story on the behavioral can really advocate your employment

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at the company. Engagement allows for a better impression. Make sure that you utilize the [star method](#) to answer many of the behavioral questions such as, What is the proudest project you have done and if you encountered any difficulty how did you resolve it.

How to ask questions after the interview?

Asking good questions about the employment opportunities helps you to learn about the company's position and the employment going forward. The end of the interview should consist of you asking 2-3 questions about the company. Something that you have in mind so that it shows the interviewer that you're also caring about this opportunity going forward. Lastly once the interview is done. Please send in a thank you email even if it is a short thank you note. It leaves a better impression since so many others aren't also doing the same thing.

Never give up and Don't compare against others

Your life is yours, not anyone else's. Don't compare yourself with others. Never give up on finding an internship and never give in to negativity. Sometimes you don't get an internship because you simply have bad luck or that you're out-competed by everyone else. But that's okay, keep doing what you do best. Which is to work and improve.

Keep in mind that the life ahead of us is still long. After 10 years we'll end up in places we want to be. If not then we got another 10 years. And life just keeps on giving. We don't have to compete against every single person who is more successful than us. Life is a journey. There are ups and downs. There are bad things and good things. Take both experiences and understand that everyone's experience is unique. Your life is special. Try to live everyday in your life like you own it. Cause life is what you make it out of. To say that your life is bad because you didn't become successful like x,y,z is bullshit. Cause you're already living the best life. Understand that it was never about the destination, it was about the journey.

You can succeed even without an internship. Have fun 😊

You don't have to have internship experience to become successful. Many people find a job 3-5 months after graduation. They did not have to find any internship. People have to work their way up. Keep in mind that you're in a society, and life is not only about work. Getting a job is not easy, but a job is also just what we do to keep ourselves paid. Work is not everything so don't freak out if you didn't get any internship. Thank you for reading.