



career guide

10 reasons to do an internship

ASU Career Services offers a comprehensive on-line Career Guide designed to help you evaluate career options, learn about internships and launch your career. The Career Guide includes detailed information about cover letters and resumes, interviewing, business etiquette, portfolios, graduate school admission processes, effective job and internship search strategies and more. Visit the Career Guide at asu.edu/careerguide.

The goal of experiential education is to teach skills that will prepare you for the workplace. Vital employability skills are critical to securing, maintaining and advancing on the job. Internships are unique opportunities that allow you to apply what you have learned in school to a professional work environment. The work experience you can gain through an internship will make you more appealing to potential employers after graduation. Check out these 10 reasons to pursue an internship:

- 1. Gain Career-Related Experience**

Obtain hands-on experience in a professional work environment that can directly relate to your career interest and academic goals.
- 2. Develop Employability Skills**

Gain work-related skills that employers' value and the opportunity to increase your employment options after graduation.
- 3. Develop Transferable Skills**

Gaining exposure to different functional areas or departments can offer you opportunities to apply, assess, validate, and integrate your academic knowledge and skills in a work setting.
- 4. Explore Professional Interests**

Test your interests in various career fields. Finding mentors within an organization can expose you to additional job possibilities. Exploring different options can help you determine which type of work environment best fits your personality.
- 5. Enhance Personal Development**

Clarify your interests, strengthen your skills and identify the areas where you need improvement. Experience in the workplace can help develop your intellect and improve your critical thinking, problem solving, communication and leadership abilities. Success in the workplace can enhance your professional maturity and confidence.
- 6. Gain Experience and Professional Skills**

Impress employers who are seeking graduates who have relevant experience and are familiar with the work environment. After completing an internship, there is a greater potential to be hired full-time by the employer.
- 7. Generate Employment Opportunities**

The vast majority of companies say they offer internship programs and most of these organizations use internships to recruit for their permanent workforces.
- 8. Make Valuable Contacts and References**

Who you know can be just as crucial as what you know, especially with "hard to get hold of" jobs, especially in today's competitive job market. Contacts made through internships can be invaluable sources of information for future job searches.
- 9. Improved Starting Salary**

Compete for a higher salary. Graduates who participate in an internship will likely earn more than students who did not intern.
- 10. Develop a Professional Portfolio**

Document your internship achievements by gathering examples of your responsibilities, performance and range of skills. A portfolio is an excellent job search tool that can be shown to potential employers.