

Summer Internship Search

There are many benefits to working as a summer intern while a college student. It can give you a chance to explore areas of interest, make connections with companies, pick up hands-on career skills, work in a new location, bolster your resume, and possibly make some summer earnings. Often the hardest part about becoming an intern is knowing where to look and how to apply.

Here are several sources you can use to search out internship positions and applications:

Make use of Callisto. The career center website gives you the option of creating an online account with your CalNet login called Callisto. This allows you view job and internship postings that companies have posted specifically with Cal students in mind. Just like an application website, you can upload your resume and sign up for campus interviews. You can also subscribe to regular email updates about internships in your major and upcoming career fairs

Check out the Career Center website. Besides the option of creating a Callisto account, the career center website can be used in more ways to aid you in your internship search. Notably, you can search under the “What Can You Do With a Major In?” section to see the data from exit surveys for students in your major, from the last several years. This provides you with lists of graduate schools and companies that have accepted students like you right after graduation.

Attend on-campus recruiting events. Companies in the bay area usually visit the campus periodically at career fairs throughout the year to speak with students about job opportunities. This is a great chance to make a good first impression, drop off some resumes, and talk to employees about their companies, what they’re looking for, and how to be considered for a position. These events are usually advertised ahead of time on the career center website.

Stay in the loop with LinkedIn. This professional social networking website is a great way to keep up with the connections you make in college. In addition, you have the option of “following” companies that you’re interested in working for, or joining professional groups. Both are great sources for job postings! Your profile is somewhat like a resume; you can highlight your skills and past experiences, and if a recruiter comes across your page they might like what they see!

Student organizations. Don’t underestimate the power of campus clubs! These student-run organizations often host info sessions with company recruiters who present info about their companies, give tips to aspiring applicants, hold mock (or real) interviews, and accept resumes. Check out organizations like chapters of American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), Society of Asian Scientists & Engineers (SASE), and Society of Women Engineers (SWE).

Keep up with your peers. Not sure where to start your internship search? Chances are, some of your peers do. Pay attention to how your classmates are spending their summers. This is especially useful if you know students in your major that are a year or two ahead of you. If you have questions about how to apply or what it was like to work for a certain company, you will have a friend to ask about their experience!