

How Internships Benefits Careers

From hands-on experience to networking, internships offer students experiences they often will not find in the classroom. The following list includes some of the reasons why internships are beneficial to students, and a great way to get a head start on a career path.

Work Experience:

The importance of obtaining real-world work experience through an internship cannot be understated. While classroom learning is weighed heavily by employers, when recent graduates come to the table with practical, industry experience, it makes them even more attractive candidates. By completing an internship in the field they want to work in, students get a glimpse of the day-to-day duties they will be expected to do when they land a job. In addition, internships give students the opportunity to apply what they learned in the classroom to the real world.

Professional Networking:

Since most job positions are not advertised, professional networking plays a huge role in any successful job search. As an intern, students meet people who can become part of their professional network, which may help them find a job after graduation. Even if there isn't a position available in the organization they interned for, the contacts students make can lead to a job somewhere else.

Career Decision-Making:

The classroom can only do so much in terms of educating students about a specific career. By participating in an internship, students learn about the realities of their field of interest, getting a clear picture of what their work life will be like after graduation. The time spent in an internship can either reinforce their decision to enter a certain field, or let students know that a profession is not the right fit for them.

References:

Professional references are an important tool in any job search arsenal. Completing an internship successfully will help recent graduates stand out because they'll have someone in their field who can vouch for their job performance and work ethic.

Meeting Peers:

Students who complete internships may also meet other college students, or recent graduates, who share their same goals and interests. Having a steady stream of support from people who are in the same boat allows students to vent their frustrations, find solutions to problems, and build lifelong connections.