Tips for Summer Internships

Are you interested in searching for a Summer Internship? Don’t wait: start today!

1. **Make an appointment with the Center for Career and Professional Development!** While we can offer you some general advice here, the Career Counselors in the Center for Career and Professional Development will provide you with the best and most accurate information and sustained support. They can introduce you to a ton of helpful resources, whether you are looking for a summer internship, summer job, or college major. Do not hesitate to reach out to them!

2. **Prepare your “tools.”** As the Center for Career and Professional Development says, your search should start with preparing your cover letter and resume, and prepping your interview skills. If you find an opportunity but are not yet ready or able to present yourself professionally, you risk losing that opportunity both this summer and in the future. Read more from the Center for Career and Professional Development about internships and preparing your internship-seeking tools [here](#).

3. **Start Looking for Internships at Your Ideal Workplace—But Be Happy With Any Experience You May Receive.** Samantha Wu, on Pearsonstudents.com, suggests that, when trying to find an internship, it is a great idea to start with your dream job. Where would you love to work? Identify the key characteristics that attract you to that company, then see if you can find other companies with those qualities to which you could reach out. Once you have a list of possibilities, it is time to start networking! Of course, you may not be able to get an internship at any of your idea workplaces, but any internship can be a great start.

4. **Network—and Be Persistent!** Many employers aren’t thinking of hiring first-year students as interns, so you might have to find your own opportunities and be persistent in reaching out to your contacts. See what contacts you might already have through friends, family, and Lehigh alumni and reach out to them. If you don’t know anyone at that company, find a contact list and as Wu suggests, reach out to someone saying that you are a first-year student “looking to learn more about the company.” If they are amenable to chatting with you, an internship—or a future job opportunity—may arise.

5. **Chat with Other Students About Internships.** Whether you manage to get an internship this summer or not, Internships.com suggests chatting with fellow students, at Lehigh and elsewhere, about their internship experiences. These conversations will provide you with valuable advice, a list of future possible companies, and a common contact who can help you connect with the company.

For additional information on internships in general and for first-year students specifically, read more on Internships.com and PearsonStudents.com. And make that appointment with the Center for Career and Professional Development! Good luck on your internship search!