7 Good Reasons Why YOU Should be Looking for an Internship

The number of employers looking for candidates with internship experience is increasing. In fact, most employers are discovering that candidates with just a degree and no internship experience are “woefully unprepared” for the business world. To avoid being part of the candidate population that is unprepared, here are 7 good reasons why you should consider looking for an internship:

Decide if this is the Right Career for You
Internships give you valuable insight into whether your prospective field is truly the field for you. Think of it as “trying out” your future career.

Networking Opportunities
Internships allow you to get to know people in your field. Even if you have all the experience you need, knowing more people could never hurt.

Apply Classroom Knowledge
Internships give you the opportunity to apply all of the skills and knowledge you’ve gained from the classroom into a real-world setting. It’s a chance to prove all of that schooling was worth it!

Gain Valuable Work Experience
Employers are willing to take on first time job seekers as interns, in order to give them the experience they would need to get a job. This allows you, as the first time job seeker, to become a competitive candidate.

Transition into a Job
Employers see interns as prospective employees and many who finish their internships continue working with the company full time.

Have an Edge in the Job Market
Employers tend to be more interested in your experience than your degree alone. Internships are a good way to gain that essential experience to put you ahead of the applicant pool.

Gain Confidence
Getting experience through an internship not only gives you the confidence to say “yes, I can do that!” to a prospective employer, but it also provides you with the experience to back up your assertion.

(Source: http://www.i-to-i.com/benefits-of-internship.html; http://chronicle.com/article/A-College-
Using LinkedIn for your Job Search—why it’s a good idea:

Get Job Email Alerts
You can set email alerts to receive notifications of recommended jobs.

Connect with Professionals
A large number of professionals use LinkedIn—and that number keeps growing! Simply connect with them at the click of a button.

Conduct Company Research
By visiting company pages, you can research the company to determine if they might be a good fit for you.

Get Recommendations
LinkedIn offers a feature where other people can write recommendations for you. So when others visit your profile, they can see how wonderful you really are!

Let Companies Find You
Detailed professional profiles attract employers’ attention. Just imagine your dream job pursuing you!

Connect with Other Students
Networking with other students and college graduates allows you to find out how they found a job or how they were hired by an employer.

Land International Jobs
LinkedIn is a global networking platform, so if you are interested in finding a job overseas this feature will benefit your job search.

(Source: http://theundercoverrecruiter.com/7-ways-college-students-can-benefit-linkedin/)

The Do's of Interviewing:
- Research the company or organization
- Follow the company on LinkedIn to conduct further research
- Review your qualifications for the job
- Be ready to briefly describe your experience
- Get a good night’s sleep and relax
- Smile, be friendly and confident
- Have a firm handshake
- Bring a portfolio with a hard copy of your resume
- Dress professionally
- Send a thank-you letter

The Don'ts of Interviewing:
- "Wing" the interview
- Over-explain why you lost your last job
- Try to be all things to all people
- Fail to set yourself apart from other candidates
- Concentrate too much on what you want
- Lack humor, warmth, or personality
- Fidget too much or use filler words ("um", "so", "you know", etc.)

(Source: AZ Business Magazine, 2012)