

With little experience behind you, a job search may be a daunting task. For this reason, many people fresh out of college seek internships as a way to gain knowledge and familiarity in a particular field. However, there is a wide range of internships available; so it is important to choose carefully in order to ensure a proper fit with your circumstances and a position.

One of the first questions you should ask yourself is whether you expect to be paid for your time or if you will be volunteering. There may be positions available that fit either category. Therefore, you should make this determination before you begin your search, as it may play a major role in your decision-making. As expected, there are probably more positions available for someone willing to volunteer their time, especially if you are cold-calling an office or company. They may be willing to create a place for you if they are not obligated to pay you for your time. On the other hand, your circumstances may require compensation. If this is the case, simply find a position that meets your needs.

Locating an internship is much like finding any other job. However, there is one benefit; with internships you can often utilize the school you are attending for help in placement.

You may also utilize want ads, employment agencies, and online employment sources to find internships. Using these sources, you should have a clear idea of what you are looking for. When you make contact with various companies, you will want to weed out inappropriate options immediately. This saves time so you can focus on real possibilities. There are several online sources that focus solely on internships. Research what may be available in your area or in a geographic location you may be willing to relocate to.

Networking is also a viable resource. Meet and talk to as many people in the industry you want to be in as humanly possible. Join professional organizations and take time to get to know other members. When a position comes available, if they know you are looking, you will be one of the first people to be made aware of it.

Another option is to seek out a company you want to work for. While they may not be looking, you can make them aware of your availability. As stated earlier, a position may be created under the right circumstances. If you meet with the right people and impress them, you may be able to get your foot in the door.

There are also internship directories published periodically by various sources. Check your school and your local library for access to these books. Many of these are a great source for specialized internships, such as for environmental positions, sports positions, and women's rights internships.