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John Tyler McCullough (International Relations, Environmental Studies, 2017)
Intern
Full-time, 40 hours per week
Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
Interns at ActBlue are primarily concerned with the issues that donors have with their contributions. This involves a lot of emailing and is essentially customer service. A variety of departments assign projects, though, which are more interesting, and they usually try to tailor them to what you’re interested in. One of the projects I worked on was tracking ballot initiatives across the country. I searched who the sponsors were to see if they were 501c4s and if they’d be eligible for fundraising with us.

How did you find your internship?
Tufts Internship Fair

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
The people here are super kind and welcoming, and it's a nice place to work. The work I did on projects was the most rewarding part of interning here.

What do you find challenging?
The customer service aspect can be dull. Although you do get some funny and unexpected emails sometimes.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Make sure that the company will be able to cater to your needs and what you want to get out of the experience, both professionally and personally.

About the Organization
ActBlue
Somerville, MA

ActBlue is a non-profit, building fundraising technology for the left. Our mission is to democratize power and help small-dollar donors make their voices heard in a real way. We develop top-of-the-line fundraising software and offer simple, intuitive tools to help campaigns and organizations on the left connect with new and existing grassroots donors. As a result, Democratic campaigns get more donations through ActBlue than any other platform. Together, we build powerful movements.
Chicago Ideas Week | www.chicagoideas.com

- Noa Rosen (International Relations, French, 2016)
- Strategic Partnerships Intern;
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
I work with Strategic Partnerships, the team that is responsible for fundraising and membership, which includes obtaining and maintaining relationships with large corporate sponsors, as well as reaching out to individuals about purchasing individual and corporate membership packages. Tasks involve a lot of email and some telephone outreach, setting up phone meetings, and keeping track of relationships with members past, present, and future. I completed several tasks for development, including researching the most cost-effective methods for gaining members and membership payments at events. I also created conversation starting questions for membership events and researched the viability of potential speakers for ThinkChicago, an initiative designed to bring young people in the tech field to Chicago.

**How did you find your internship?**
Word of mouth - my mother was familiar with the organization and also knew someone working there.

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
I most enjoy the freedom of this work environment and the care that is taken to make sure the interns have a positive experience. There are about 20 people on the CIW team, and I was given many opportunities to learn how a non-profit works by close interaction with several sub teams. I loved the exposure I got to so many ideas, entrepreneurs and professionals through the internship and CIW events. I went on site visits, to a meeting with Leo Burnett, and also to a couple of start-up incubators. It is a very friendly environment, and a member of the team always responded to my ideas or research.

**What do you find challenging?**
The most challenging aspect was staying on task when given longer, data entry focused tasks. To overcome this I broke up these tasks over several days and made sure I wasn’t doing that one task all day long. Usually there were many people looking for help, so if I was stuck, I could break it up with other things. The other challenge I had was cold calling for membership; I had never done that before and talking to strangers on the phone was definitely out of my comfort zone. It was a valuable experience, and after doing several calls with a staff member I began to feel more comfortable.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
Know what you’re good at and bring that to the team in whichever way you can. If you’re not sure which team you want to work for, be clear in expressing what you like to do, and make yourself useful to everyone. For example, I expressed that I loved writing and received tasks like drafting letters to members, generating tweets and helping plan membership events. Take any opportunity that comes your way even if it doesn’t pertain to you. I observed interviews for the Artist-in-Residence and learned about space design and architecture. Talk to everyone, ask questions, and as many events as you can!

**About the Organization**
Chicago Ideas is a year-round platform featuring globally recognized speakers and interactive experiences that are designed to turn ideas into actionable results. Its goal is to stimulate new initiatives and ventures, create new connections and collaborations, and establish a Community of Curiosity.
Marcelo Coelho Studio | www.cmarcelo.com

- Ben Kazer (Cognitive and Brain Sciences, 2017)
- Studio Intern
- Full-time, 35 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
Mainly I help develop software for a wearable device. I also assist in prototyping, product development and assembly.

How did you find your internship?
Research into similar companies

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I enjoy being involved in both creative and technical aspects of the work.

What do you find challenging?
Everything we work on is continually developing and changing, so much of my time is spent learning new skills and new material for what we want to work on.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Search for something you are interested in, and when you find it, go after it. There is no need to rush, but don’t stress yourself out by waiting too long to start looking.

About the Organization
Marcelo Coelho Studio
Cambridge, MA

MCS is a creative studio dedicated to technically innovative and experimental work. Blurring the boundaries between matter and computation, the studio designs objects, installations, and live experiences with an imaginative and anti-disciplinary approach. We are currently working on a new class of wearable devices, an audiovisual engine for real-time material animation, and the 2016 Paralympics Ceremonies in Rio de Janeiro.
MassChallenge | http://masschallenge.org

- Yuchun Bian (Studio Art, International Relations, 2018)
- Creative Intern
- Part-time, 24 hours per week
- Unpaid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I create graphic material for various events, including logos, infographics, and posters; coordinate with staff members to run events, including greeting and registration; and assist with character design for animation.

How did you find your internship?
Indeed.com

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
The work environment is the best thing about MassChallenge. Every staff and intern is very passionate about our cause, and we all work hard for this goal in our different areas of specialties. I really enjoy solving problems through graphic design and thinking about how to present information visually. I also have the opportunity to talk to startup companies from all over the world, and get to know their backgrounds, visions for their companies, and difficulties.

What do you find challenging?
What I found the most challenging is actually how to communicate with staff and brand manager whom I'm primarily working with. In college, we usually hang out with people we get along; but in a medium-sized company, it is important to get along and work well with every staff and intern. At Tufts, my professors would usually listen to my ideas patiently and are always very supportive; at my company, I am usually told what to do and sometimes it's tricky to be creative within the brand guidelines.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Communicate your idea clearly with your manager, try your best to get creative with your assignments, stick to deadlines, and become friends with co-workers/interns!

About the Organization
MassChallenge
Boston, MA

We help early-stage entrepreneurs win. We connect entrepreneurs with the resources they need to launch and succeed immediately. Our primary activities include running an annual global accelerator program and startup competition, documenting and organizing key resources, and organizing training and networking events.
Mathbreakers | www.mathbreakers.com

- Tal August (Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Computer Science, 2016)
- Play-Testing Liaison
- Full-time, 25-35 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
My tasks vary greatly from week to week. I meet one-on-one with teachers interested in trying the Mathbreakers games, create video tutorials for the games, and brainstorm new game ideas with the founding team. I also have created blog content and helped out at play-testing sessions with kids.

How did you find your internship?
I found Mathbreakers through a bunch of google searches on educational technology companies. I eventually looked through a start-up incubator specializing in EdTech of which Mathbreakers was a part.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
Working for a start-up allows for a huge amount of freedom and flexibility in terms of when you work and what you work on. I was given lots of tasks throughout my internship but was encouraged to find my own as well. This freedom allowed me to explore areas of the company that I found specifically interesting, such as coming up with new game ideas.

What do you find challenging?
Sometimes the lack of a clear intern program made me feel a little adrift. I didn't always know what I was supposed to be doing, or if I was doing enough. That being said, my supervisors were more than happy to provide me with more work, and I was also able to take on personal projects to kept me busy.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Taking initiative is really important, but tempered with the realization that you are new to the team and don't necessarily know how everything works. Ask lots of questions, be curious and open to feedback, and just keep on exploring the company.

About the Organization
Mathbreakers
San Francisco, CA

Mathbreakers is a virtual math playground that takes topics as simple as counting and as complex as Calculus and puts them in a gaming environment that blows normal worksheet-esque applications out of the proverbial water. The premise of the game reads more like an action adventure role-playing, third-person shooter one than an "educational" pursuit. Players are in control, helping the story unfold with their decisions along the way. There are different scenes, a variety of conquests and even virtual monsters to battle.
• Alice Lee (Computer Science, ELS, 2017)
• Developer Intern
• Full-time, 40 hours per week
• Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
I am part of a development team working on projects in the same capacity as any junior hire.

How did you find your internship?
A family friend mentioned they were looking for interns so I cold applied.

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I like the team I’m working with and the general atmosphere.

What do you find challenging?
Learning a new code base in a new language takes a certain amount of ramp-up time.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
The interviews are all coding based but not terribly difficult. Make sure you read the prompts in full and pay attention to details.

About the Organization
NGP VAN
Somerville, MA

NGP VAN is the leading technology provider to Democratic and progressive campaigns and organizations, offering clients an integrated platform of the best fundraising, compliance, field, organizing, new media, and social networking products.
TED Conferences, LLC | www.ted.com

- Alexa Horwitz (Interdisciplinary Studies, 2016)
- Content Team Intern
- Part-time, 25 hours per week
- Paid

What do you do as an intern at this organization?
As an intern on the content team, I am the first set of eyes to review potential speakers' applications that are received through the online portal. I categorize them and enter them into the TED database based on their interests. Also, I can flag people who I think would give a compelling talk and pitch them at our weekly meetings.

How did you find your internship?
I love watching TED talks, so when it came time to look for a summer internship, I checked out their available positions. I uploaded my resume and submitted my cover letter through the website and was contacted by current employees for several rounds of interviews. It was kind of a long process from when I first applied to receiving the offer, but it was definitely worth the wait!

What do you enjoy most about your internship?
I really enjoy how my time is balanced between working individually and working within a larger group. I am able to do my own research and learn more about what I am interested in, but we all come together a few times a week as a content team to update the group and learn more about what each other are doing. It was during these meetings that I learned from my supervisors and received feedback on my work.

What do you find challenging?
The freedom I have at TED took some getting used to. In my previous internships, I had more guidance and specific tasks to complete on a daily basis. Here, I am kind of on my own to organize my time and make the most of my day. It's been a really great learning experience, and I now know it is something I will look for in a future job.

What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?
Don't be afraid to introduce yourself — TEDs workspace is such an awesome environment with so many cool and interesting people that I was initially intimidated to introduce myself to members of other teams. Once I got over this, I was able to meet so many and learn about all the cool stuff they were doing at TED.

About the Organization
TED Conferences, LLC
New York, NY

TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages.
ViaSat, Inc. | www.viasat.com

- Daniel Kim (Computer Science, 2016)
- Software Engineer Intern
- Full-time, 40 hours per week
- Paid

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
As a software engineer intern, I assign to myself and complete programming tasks from a set of available tasks for our current software project.

**How did you find your internship?**
Jumbo Jobs

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
I most enjoy the organized and appropriately rigorous nature of the coding work I am given.

**What do you find challenging?**
The most challenging work is learning and using a completely new tool needed for a task.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
Always have something to work on!

**About the Organization**
ViaSat, Inc.
Quincy, MA

Bringing today’s communication services to people in virtually any location. Our innovative wireless and other digital communication networks serve consumers, enterprises, and governments. A company that is always asking, “What’s next?” Our services and systems already enable some of the fastest, most secure, and efficient communications available, but we constantly look for ways to do things better. Better for our customers and better for the world. With the ability to push the limits of what’s possible. With our vertically integrated set of technologies, we can innovate at every possible point of the systems we create, to make big leaps in performance, speed, bandwidth economics, and security.