



Ready Reference C-5 Alternative Internship Opportunities

Looking for a work experience outside of the traditional industry internship? There are other types of opportunities available to gain experience and build your resume. Below is a list of alternative internship opportunities.

What Can You Do?

Research Internships – Two options are available for students interested in a research internship.

The first option is Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), a program funded by the National Science Foundation. There are numerous opportunities offered through the REU program where students work at REU sites. An REU site contains a group of approximately ten undergraduates who work in the research programs of the host institution. Each student works closely with the researchers and is granted stipends, as well as assistance with housing and travel. REU students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the United States. To apply, the student must contact the institution conducting the research. Current research and other information on REUs can be found on the following website:

http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/reu_search.cfm

Research internships are not only limited to REUs. There are also opportunities available with faculty members at universities that are not classified as REUs. There is no formal listing for these kinds of opportunities; however, students can search universities by subject area via the internet.

Government Internships – The Federal government has many opportunities nationwide and abroad for students interested in internships. One such program is the Student Education Employment Program. This program has two components: the student temporary employment program (STEP) and the student career experience program (SCEP).

STEP – Jobs with the STEP component are temporary and can range from summer jobs or internships to jobs that last throughout your academic career. Employment opportunities under STEP do not necessarily have to be in the student's academic field of study.

SCEP – The SCEP program allows students to gain experience in their field of study and is the government's version of cooperative educations. This program requires a commitment by the student, employer, university, and the associated Federal agency. Students are often eligible for full-time employment upon the completion of their degree and specified work terms. SCEP students may be employed year around in terms similar to the Co-Op program depending on the department and branch of government.

Examples of opportunities for CEAT students interested in STEP and SCEP include: the Naval Research Academy, US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Interior, US Air Force (civilian employment), EPA, and many more.

More information on opportunities with the government can be found at the following sites:

<http://www.opm.gov/employ/students/index.htm>

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>

Research on Campus – Many professors here on campus do their own research and require research assistants. Talk with your professor if you would like to work as a research assistant on one of their projects.

Information modified from: *America's Federal Jobs: Second Edition* and <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/start.htm>