Reference Document for Internship Learning Objectives

Internships provide students with an opportunity to put into practice skills that they have learned within an environment that enhances those skills, as well as obtain the perspective of a work environment including the advice and experience of a mentor or supervisor. The supervisor, or mentor, at the internship host agency provides coaching and evaluation of the student. Student and supervisor, with approval of a TerreWEB advisor, should develop specific objectives to be met during the internship experience.

The student should ask, “What do I expect to learn or experience during my internship?” This document serves as a reference for TerreWEB students and collaborators to use when developing an internship position and filling out the Internship Agreement document (located at [http://terreweb.ubc.ca/internships](http://terreweb.ubc.ca/internships)).

Specific Objectives for Internships:

1. Prepare students to become employed in their area of specialization upon graduation by developing an extensive network outside of an academic setting
2. Develop skills in the application of academic to practical/applied work
3. Provide students the opportunity to test their interests and aptitudes for a particular career
4. Develop professional skills and techniques directly applicable to a career goal
5. Provide students with knowledge of the functional/operational activities of the participating organization/host agency.
6. Provide students the opportunity to develop effective interpersonal skills in workplace relationships
7. Provide students with the opportunity to earn a salary while pursuing educational goals
8. Increase a student's sense of responsibility
9. Develop an employment history and references to enhance future employment opportunities

Strategies should be listed for each of the above objectives (to be reviewed). Each strategy should advance the particular objective it supports.

Questions to Consider When Applying for an Internship:

1. Will the environment provide you with the opportunity and the means to enhance your skills and to contribute in a meaningful way?
2. What does the organization/institution/company do? What is their mission or vision?
3. Is there a supervisor/mentor available to guide your experience?
4. What you want to gain from this work experience? For example: Do you want to learn new programming or mapping techniques? Discover new ways to enhance web pages? Learn filmmaking skills? Learn how to develop a new innovation or product?

How to Apply for an Internship

Graduate students supervised (or co-supervised) by a TerreWEB member (listed at www.terrewb.ubc.ca) can, and are encouraged, to engage in an internship.

To have a record of communication, coordination as well as a record of achievement, it is suggested that students together with their principle supervisor contact the TerreWEB office (e-mail: Terre.WEB@ubc.ca) and indicate their intention. This should include the internship position (place/person) and if they are considering one of the existing collaborators listed on the TerreWEB-page. Once this has occurred we will suggest a plan of action. In all cases the intent and details of the internship experience needs to be agreed a priori by the TerreWEB office.