

Frequently Asked Internship Questions

Where have students worked in the past?

There is a list of past MURP student placements under the [Placements](#) link. To access this resource, click on the link or go to Community → Internships → Placements. The list includes information such as company/organization name, job description, field specialization of internship, and contact info for the internship. It is posted in Excel format making it easy to sort the list by organization name or specialization. **Note: This list has internship placements for the last seven years (2000-2007) so some of the information may be outdated.

Where can I go to view employer contact info?

The past placements list is a great resource for this information. This list will include some contact information for past employers.

What do I need to get an internship?

Before you begin looking for an internship, think about what your ideal internship would be. Would it be doing something with pedestrian transportation systems or working with an environmental conservation agency? Are you interested in affordable housing and building community service infrastructure or are you more interested in how land is designated and used? Once you have something in mind, start researching companies which deal with what you're interested in. A great tool for this is the past placements list posted under the [Placements](#) link. After finding some organizations/companies that interest you, make sure you have a résumé on hand. It's often a good idea to tailor your résumé to the job you're seeking. If you feel your résumé is a bit sparse, or that you don't have any related experience, don't fret. Nothing can replace a good attitude and interview. Employers know this is a learning experience and look highly on interviewees who show interest and a willingness to learn.

How many total internship hours do I need?

MURPs are required to work 400 internship hours in order to graduate. Most all students find it easy to fulfill this quota. In fact, the total hours students work often goes far beyond the requirement. The more hours students work, the better prepared they will be to enter the field after graduation. Students often work multiple internships while in the program, allowing them to easily fill the requirement.

How many weekly hours do students generally work at their internships?

There is no set standard for the amount of weekly hours students devote to their internship. This really comes down to the individual student and how much they feel they can juggle while in the program. Another factor to consider is whether you will be working your internship during the academic year or in the summer. The first year of the program can be particularly challenging and time demanding so many students opt to wait until the spring quarter to begin looking for an internship. Some of these students will work all their hours over the summer while others spread their hours over the year. The key for students is to find

balance between work, classes, and their personal lives. Whether this means working only 10 hrs/week while remaining full time in the program or working 20+hrs/week and only going to school part-time, it's up to the student to find what suits them.

Where can I go to get interview pointers and help with my résumé?

The career center holds a workshop every year to assist MURP students in creating quality résumés to help them in their job hunting. A portion of the workshop is devoted to giving students pointers on how to have successful interviews. This workshop is held in spring quarter, but the career center is available year round to help students on a one-on-one basis.

When is a good time to start my internship?

There is no designated time to start your internship. The first year of the program can be particularly challenging and time demanding and some students opt to wait until the spring quarter to begin looking for an internship. If you intend to complete the program in two years, it is recommended that you begin your internship no later than the fall quarter of your second year.

How do I know if the job I have can count towards my internship hours?

There is no measuring stick for this. If you feel a particular job/internship is contributing to the skills you need to become a successful planner, it probably counts. Remember that it is to your benefit to get the most possible out of your internship before entering the field. Students should be deliberate in choosing internships that will enhance their skills for the future. Furthermore, all students are required to provide a work sample from at least one of their internships (some students do more than one) that reflects the planning related skills they have acquired while working. If you are still unclear on this, you should contact your advisor or Barry Messer, MURP Internship Coordinator.

Is it hard to find an internship?

MURP students have a great reputation in the local region. Most companies have had wonderful and productive experiences with past MURP students and are keen to continue taking on interns. Also, with the wide variety of planning related companies and organizations in the region, there is an abundance of placements available. Together, these two factors are great news for students. With a bit of research, a handy résumé, and a good interview, you should have no problem getting an internship that meets your needs.

Where's the best place to start looking?

There is a list of past MURP student placements under the [Placements](#) link. To access this resource, click on the link or go to Community → Internships → Placements. The list includes information such as company/organization name, job description, field specialization of internship, and contact info for the internship. It is posted in Excel format making it easy to sort the list by organization name or specialization. **Note: This list has internship placements for the last seven years (2000-2007) so some of the information may be outdated.

Can I do an internship abroad?

Limited numbers of students have done this in the past. However, arrangements can be made if this is something you are interested in. For more information or to get your internship approved, contact Barry Messer, MURP Internship Coordinator, or your advisor.

How much the average internship pay?

Internships generally pay \$10 - \$20 an hour, with most paying towards the middle of the scale. However, the important thing to remember is that these internships give you experience and will help you to make connections that will be useful once you enter the field.

What kinds of tasks will I be assigned?

This is highly dependent on the individual internship and the amount of experience you bring with you.

Can I self-design an internship?

Limited numbers of students have done this in the past. However, arrangements can be made if this is something you are interested in. For more information or to get your internship approved, contact Barry Messer, MURP Internship Coordinator, or your advisor.

Can my Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) count as an internship? If so, does it have to count towards my hours, or can I have a separate internship?

Depending on the nature of the GRA and the skills it requires, students may be able to count it towards their internship hours. Remember that it is to your benefit to get the most possible out of your internship before entering the field. Additionally, all students are required to provide a work sample from their internship that reflects the planning related skills they have acquired while working. If a student feels their GRA can provide enough substantive experience to enter the field, then it will count. If you are still unclear on this, you should contact your advisor or Barry Messer, MURP Internship Coordinator.

Will we be assisted in getting a placement?

The following tools are provided to assist MURP students in obtaining an internship:

- USP 559 Planning Practice Workshop
- Résumé and interview workshops
- Past Placements and Employer lists
- Professional mentor program

This program does not choose placements for its students. It is up to the individual student to be assertive and to take the initiative to find a placement for themselves.