

SOC Dean's Internships

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What's the difference between SOC Dean's Internships and other internships?

ALL internships offer students the benefits of experiential learning. SOC Dean's Internships are distinguished in the following ways:

- The SOC Strategic Partnerships Office works with nationally recognized partners to recruit top SOC students for substantive positions through an internal competitive process.
- Faculty and staff review each Dean's Intern application and recommend a pool of candidates who are best suited for available Dean's Internship positions.
- SOC host partners appreciate and respect that Dean's Interns have been reviewed and vetted by faculty. The partner evaluates the pool of recommended candidates and makes their final selection(s) based on the needs and criteria of the position.
- Alternatively, students may apply on their own for internships through an organization's website. If they are hired by a host partner, and distinguish themselves through their work, the student may be invited to join the Dean's Intern program as a result of their recognized work.
- Host partners strive to provide Dean's Interns with substantive roles and responsibilities such that students may earn bylines and production credits in association with prominent branding.
- Dean's Interns are commended by Dean Rutenbeck and are periodically invited to participate in Dean's Advisory Board meetings, AU-SOC VIP receptions and other highly recognized events.
- The prestigious achievement of being named a Dean's Intern burnishes a student's reputation, builds a strong personal network of industry contacts and demonstrates proven professional experience in today's competitive job market.
- Dean's Interns can point to a compelling online portfolio of real world experience through links and feature stories about their work on SOC's website:
 - Dean's Intern blog – www.socdeansintern.blogs.american.edu
 - Dean's Intern bios -- <http://www.american.edu/soc/resources/dean-interns.cfm>

Question: How do I apply for a Dean's Internship and what is the process for selection?

Each semester, Dean's Intern positions are posted on SOC's Dean's Intern webpage. Students fill out the applications posted on the webpage and send them to deansinternships@american.edu. Applications are evaluated by an SOC faculty/staff review committee. A selected group of top candidates who most closely meet the criteria set forth by SOC's partner organizations are sent to the host employer for further appraisal. The potential employer may contact and interview Dean's Intern candidates by phone or in person. The final selection is made by the employer.

Question: When will I hear something after submitting my application?

Once you have submitted your application online, you should receive an email confirmation from Lydia Schindler, SOC Dean's Intern Coordinator. If not, feel free to follow-up by email or phone (LydiaS@american.edu; 202-885-2220). Or drop by McKinley #215 to introduce yourself and check

on the progress of your pursuits. Some employers will contact students promptly and others may take several weeks to follow-up. We can often help nudge them on your behalf.

Question: Who can apply for Dean's Internships?

SOC Dean's Internships are open to undergraduates (juniors and seniors) and graduate students with a major or minor in SOC or an alumni of SOC within a year of graduating. If you are not yet a junior, but will be one when the internship starts or are at least a junior according to credit count, you may apply. We occasionally have opportunities for students who have recently graduated to work in full-time Dean's 'externships' for the fall or spring following their graduation. You can also apply from abroad if you're away for the semester for the upcoming round.

Question: Are Dean's Internships consistently offered each semester?

No, the Dean's Intern positions offered may change based on the partner's request or the organization's needs. We generally offer 12 – 15 opportunities with approximately ten partner institutions. However, since their needs fluctuate, more or less internships may be available from one semester to another.

Question: When will Dean's Internships be posted each semester?

Again, that depends on when the partnering organization finalizes their Dean's Intern offerings. Usually internships are posted mid-way through the term prior to the internship (Oct-Nov for spring internships, for example). It's possible that a partner will suddenly identify an opportunity. In that case, we will post that position at the beginning of the semester or whenever the request is finalized.

Question: Do you automatically get academic credit for a Dean's Internship?

No, as with any internship, you need to register for academic credit if your schedule permits. Some Dean's Internships require academic credit; others do not. If you are interested in a Dean's Internship, discuss your credit options with your academic advisor.

Question: Are Dean's Internships paid?

We strongly encourage partnering organizations to pay their interns. Most provide hourly, weekly, or monthly stipends to students and, of course, all offer valuable on-the-job training opportunities. We ask that Dean's Intern employers comply with relevant laws and Dept. of Labor regulations as outlined on AU's Career Center website –

<http://www.american.edu/careercenter/employers/Recruitment-Policies.cfm>

Other Questions?

Contact Lydia Schindler, SOC Strategic Programs and Events Coordinator:
deansinternships@american.edu, 202-885-2220. Or drop by McKinley 215 and introduce yourself.