



What I Wish I Knew Before My Internship

An internship is an exciting time for students to experience on the job training and professional development. Here are some tips to help you as you navigate your internship experience from 2nd year students who have shared “What I Wish I Knew Before My Internship”.

Things I wish I knew

- Master technical skills. Some specific programs mentioned include: SQL, Advanced Excel, Advanced PowerPoint and Data Analysis. If possible, practice your technical skills prior to your internship. Time on the job is not always permitted.
- Research the culture of the company before your internship. Understanding a company’s “norms” before your internship can help your ability to navigate your role efficiently and confidently.
- Research the industry. Different industries have different expectations for interns. Be updated on your industry and think of ways you can add to a company by being an intern.
- Contact and speak with previous interns who either interned for the company that you will intern for or someone who interned in the same industry. By doing this, you can gain a real-life perspective of an internship experience in either your industry or company.
- Attend coffee chats. Coffee chats are a great way to learn about a company and develop interpersonal relationships with employees that may not happen during the internship.

Tips for Success

- Bring new ideas. Companies are looking for people who can bring fresh ideas to the company. However, do not be surprised if ideas are not taken or supported immediately.
- Be organized. Being organized will be especially important for client management in consulting.
- Build a rapport with others in the company. People are willing to help if you ask. Do not be afraid to reach out for help and ask questions.
- Be proactive by asking for more work. Asking for more work will provide the opportunity to work on new projects that you may not be privy to unless you ask.
- Previous work experience matters. Use everything that you learned from your previous role and implement it into your internship experience.
- Do not stress over a job offer. Although, this may be your intention, take the time to enjoy the experience.
- Ask questions and learn as much as you can. Take full advantage of the experience.