Internship
Shape your future.

We are looking for the talent of the future and our internship allows us to develop young people, in turn giving the student an invaluable glimpse of the business world.

SHARON GIBB
Branch Manager, Enterprise Rent-A-Car UK Limited
Scotland and Northern Ireland
Internships at the University of Stirling

The Stirling Internship Programme has been created to help businesses and organisations access the knowledge and skills of our students through offering paid internships during the holiday period. Many of the internships are with small to medium sized employers who are looking to recruit graduates on a full-time basis. This is a great opportunity to work for a growing business, who you never know may be a future Apple or Amazon!

Why Internships are important

Graduate employers look for more than just a good degree result. An increasing number of graduate jobs are secured through undertaking structured internships or demonstrating relevant work experience. Employers are looking for applications from students who have spent time developing transferable skills through employment experience as well as through other activities.

The Stirling Internship Programme has been created to help businesses and organisations access the knowledge and skills of our students who will work on a project or support a range of activities during the key holiday periods.

Undertaking an internship demonstrates your commitment to employability, providing you with opportunities to gain valuable work experience and training which will help your future graduate job prospects.

Six reasons why you should consider an internship

Become more employable: Boost your CV and stand out from the crowd in order to have an edge in the graduate job market.

Help fund your studies: Earn while you learn.

Network with employers: Make professional connections.

Test your career options: Internships can ease your transition into future careers and provide you with an insight into the sector.

Develop practical experience: ‘Real world’ business experience, enabling you to put theory into practice.

Develop transferable skills: Communication, team work, problem solving, decision-making, initiative, creativity and confidence building.

Did you know?

37% of top graduate recruiters expect their graduate positions to be filled by those who have worked in their organisation.*

More than 4/5 of the UK’s leading graduate employers are offering paid internships for students and graduates.*

*Source: High Flyers Research Ltd
Graduate Market 2014
Why did you want to do an internship?
I wanted to gain professional experience and insight into the business world allowing me to enhance my CV and improve my chances of getting a job. I was also interested in earning money to support myself during term time.

How did you find out about the placement and what was the selection process like?
I was made aware of the Career Development Centre and the various workshops and resources it offered. I attended a visit to the Enterprise-Rent-A-Car Head Office to hear about the challenges that Enterprise face in the current international business market, as well as their growth strategy.

I was invited to an assessment center which involved a group debate, a time management task, role play and an interview. After this, I was offered a 12 week internship.

Which department was the internship with? Who was your mentor?
My internship was in the rental department. I worked in the Stirling branch and my branch manager, Sharon Gibb, was my mentor. Sharon has been working for Enterprise for over eight years and has held various positions within the rental department, through several promotions. Learning from Sharon and working with her during my internship has allowed me to see the amount of passion she has for her career, as well as the amount of time and effort she puts into everything she does at Enterprise. Observing the way Sharon successfully operates her business, and being a part of that business, has been extremely inspiring and motivating for me, and an experience that I am sure will positively influence my own work ethic in any career I undertake.

What was the objective of the internship placement, and how long was it?
The objective was to gain hands-on experience and learn about sales, marketing, customer service, business management, and administrative support.
What was it like?

Interns at Enterprise are given the same responsibilities as the Management Trainees on the graduate program. My first few weeks were a bit overwhelming when I was learning about all aspects of the business. By the end of the 12 weeks, I was given the responsibility to train a Management Trainee who was just starting at our branch which was extremely rewarding.

How do you think it has it helped towards planning your future career?

This internship has made me realise that I enjoy working in sales, and now I hope to go into a sales position after I graduate. This internship did exactly what I had hoped it would, it gave me a better idea of which areas of business I enjoy the most! During my time at Enterprise I made sure to network with fellow colleagues and gained several important contacts.

What new skills did it give you?

I gained numerous skills from my internship with Enterprise with the key ones being customer service, sales, marketing, finance, and networking.

Do you have any recommendations or advice to give other students?

My advice to other students would be to apply for as many internship positions as possible, as early as possible, and not to get discouraged if you don’t hear back from a company after applying!

For more information on internships at Stirling

www.stir.ac.uk/current-students/careers/internships/