

Scholarships & Internships: Pathways to Your Career

Key Student Learnings

Overarching Content Questions

How does an internship at a tech company foster learning and professional growth for its interns?

How do internships contribute to career trajectories?



Vocabulary

Step 0: Intro

Internship

A short-term job to gain real-world experience in your field of interest

Step 1: A Day in the Life

Stand Up

A daily meeting debrief to keep everyone on the team aware of what is going on.

Project

A temporary, goal-oriented endeavor to create a unique product, service, or result.

Professionalism

Acting responsibly, doing your best, being on time, dressing appropriately, and treating others with kindness and respect.

Step 2: Myth Busting

Imposter Syndrome

Doubting your abilities and feeling like a fraud, believing you don't deserve your successes.

Step 3: Community & Culture

Jargon

Specialized language or terminology used in a particular profession or company or industry.

Leadership Principles

Guiding beliefs or values used to direct actions and decision making at a company.

Ownership

Taking responsibility for your work and actions.

Networking

Building professional relationships to exchange information, generate new opportunities, and advance your career.

Step 4: Application Process

Scholarship

Payment that supports a student's education.



Intro



Scholarships & Internships: Pathways to your Career

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 1](#)

In what ways does interning at a tech company enhance learning and foster professional growth for interns pursuing careers in STEM and computer science?

An **internship** is a short-term job to gain real-world experience in a field one is interested in pursuing for a career. Internships are an important way for students to explore different careers and can have a big impact on their future goals and development. They provide students with hands-on, real-world experience in a professional setting, allowing them to apply their classroom learning and gain valuable skills. Beyond just exploring a potential career path, internships also give students the opportunity to build connections with industry professionals who can serve as mentors and role models.



Intro



Scholarships & Internships: Pathways to your Career

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According to the Gallup-Amazon Role Models Matter study, 43% of young adults say participating in an internship is one of the most beneficial experiences. Research also shows that internships can increase the likelihood that students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds, will pursue careers in fields like computer science and engineering. By making quality internship opportunities more accessible, schools and employers can give students a critical glimpse into STEM careers and inspire them to envision themselves in these roles long-term.

On today's tour, students will hear from three Amazon interns to explore the question: In what ways does interning at a tech company enhance learning and foster professional growth for interns pursuing careers in STEM and computer science?

Students will learn about the day-in-the-life of an intern, misconceptions and realities of being an intern at a tech company, community building and fun aspects of an internship, the application process, and the next steps to potentially become an intern at Amazon or another tech company.



Intro Standards

ISTE Standards

Empowered Learner

1.1b Customized Learning Environments

Students build networks and customize their learning environments in ways that support the learning process.



Stop 1

The Day to Day

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 2](#) and [Video 3](#)



Pre-Stop Trivia Poll

What do you think are common day-to-day responsibilities for interns? Select all that apply

- A. Spending all the company's money.
- B. Attending team meetings.**
- C. Managing other employees.
- D. Working on coding projects.**
- E. Fetching coffee and food for the boss.
- F. Collaborating with team members.**



Stop 1

The Day to Day

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 2](#) and [Video 3](#)

What tasks and projects do interns complete daily during their internship?

Students may have misconceptions about internships from what they've seen in TV shows and movies. They may believe internships are all about fetching coffee and doing boring tasks! But at Amazon and many tech companies, that is not the case. Each year Amazon hires thousands of **interns** (students or recent graduates who work at a company for a limited period of time to gain practice experience in a field). Interns develop skills, are exposed to Amazon's culture and processes, network, and learn from mentors.

For many interns, the day often starts early with a morning team **stand-up** (a daily meeting debrief to keep everyone on the team aware of what is going on) to discuss the current status of projects and any **technical blockers** (issues related to code or software infrastructure) the team is facing. After the meeting, the intern may dive into coding **projects** (temporary, goal-oriented endeavors aimed at creating a unique product, service, or result), working on a new feature or helping to debug an existing issue in the codebase. Whether it's helping to design the user interface for a groundbreaking Alexa skill, analyzing vast troves of data to uncover valuable insights, or even prototyping a novel hardware device, interns get to be part of the process of bringing transformative ideas to life.



Stop 1

The Day to Day

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 2](#) and [Video 3](#)

Throughout the day, the intern meets with product managers, designers, and developers to gather requirements, provide updates, and collaborate on solutions. Lunch offers a chance to recharge, network with fellow interns, and attend tech talks or career development sessions. In the afternoon, the intern may participate in code reviews, contribute to design sessions focused on user experience, or meet with stakeholders to understand the business impact of their work. As the day ends, they document progress, set goals for the next day, and may showcase their work to the engineering team.

While each intern's day to day may look a little different, all interns work on assigned projects, network with peers, and gain valuable insights into life at a tech company.



Mid-Stop Review Question

Interns participate in daily meetings called ___ to discuss what they are working on for the day with their team.
A. sit-downs **B. stand-ups** C. projects D. coffee talks



Stop 1

The Day to Day

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 2](#) and [Video 3](#)

What does it mean to be professional? As an intern, being **professional** means showing up on time, communicating clearly, and staying open to feedback. It's important to meet deadlines, treat everyone with respect, and adapt to the expectations of your work environment. One aspect of this is work attire, which can vary greatly depending on company culture. In some places, you might be expected to wear formal business attire, while in others, casual clothing is the norm. It's important to understand the culture of the company you're working with and dress accordingly!



Vocabulary Review Question

What does it mean to be professional while interning at a tech company? **Select all that apply.**

- A. Making sure your clothing is fire!
- B. **Communicating respectfully with other employees.**
- C. **Being reliable, responsible, and meeting deadlines**
- D. Filming content for social media to prove you're an insider.



Stop 1 Standards

CS Standards

2-CS-02 Design projects that combine hardware and software components to collect and exchange data.

Concept: Computing Systems

Subconcept: Hardware & Software

Practice: Creating

ISTE Standards

Digital Citizen

1.2.b Online Interactions

Students demonstrate empathetic, inclusive interactions online and use technology to responsibly contribute to their communities.

ISTE Standards (Continued)

Global Collaborator

1.7.a Global Connections

Students use digital tools to connect with peers from a variety of backgrounds recognizing diverse viewpoints and broadening mutual understanding.

Global Collaborator

1.7.b Multiple Viewpoints

Students use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts and community members, to examine issues and problems from multiple viewpoints.

Global Collaborator

1.7.c Project Teams

Students contribute constructively to project teams, assuming various roles and responsibilities to work effectively toward a common goal.



Stop 2



Myth Busting

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 4](#) and [Video 5](#)

Pre-Stop Trivia Poll

True or False: You have to be an expert in coding to become an intern.

A. True **B. False**

How can an internship experience help you dispel myths you may have about a career?

While learning the ropes, you might experience **imposter syndrome**—the feeling that you don't belong or aren't deserving of the opportunity. It's common, especially when everything feels new and challenging. The key to overcoming it is to remember that internships are designed for growth. No one expects you to know everything right away. Ask questions, embrace mistakes, and take it as a learning experience. Being professional doesn't mean being perfect—it's about being responsible, adaptable, and always eager to learn. Over time, as you navigate these different aspects of work culture, you'll build confidence and realize you truly do belong.



Stop 2



Myth Busting

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 4](#) and [Video 5](#)

Many people have preconceived notions about what it's like to intern at a tech company like Amazon. Some might believe the environment is overly competitive, with interns constantly vying for attention, or that interns are only given menial tasks. In reality, Amazon places a strong focus on collaboration, innovation, and developing future leaders. Interns are supported through mentorship, training, and a strong sense of community, with meaningful opportunities to contribute and grow professionally.

Mid-Stop Trivia Review

Interns may have imposter syndrome, doubting their skills/talents/accomplishments. How can interns get past this?

- A. By being curious and asking lots of questions.**
- B. By not challenging themselves so they don't make mistakes.**
- C. Using artificial intelligence to do all their work for them.**
- D. By refusing to accept compliments or positive feedback.**

Many interns at Amazon are surprised by the experience. They're given significant autonomy and responsibility from the start, empowered to own projects and make decisions. The fast-paced, customer-focused environment pushes them to adapt quickly. The scale and complexity of Amazon's operations often exceed their expectations. Overall, the internship challenges common myths, immersing interns in a culture of learning, collaboration, and real impact.



Stop 2 Standards

ISTE Standards

Empowered Learner:

1.1a Learning Goals

Students set learning goals, develop strategies leveraging technology to achieve them and reflect on the learning process to improve learning outcomes.

Digital Citizenship:

1.2.b Online Interactions

Students demonstrate empathetic, inclusive interactions online and use technology to responsibly contribute to their communities.

Knowledge Constructor

3a. Students use effective research strategies to find resources that support their learning needs, personal interests and creative pursuits.



Stop 3

Community & Culture

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 6](#) and [Video 7](#)



Pre-Stop Reflection

What information has surprised you so far?

What questions do you still have?

Is an internship all work? What are the fun parts of an internship? What is company culture like?

A big part of any work culture is the workplace jargon (specialized language or terminology used in a particular profession, company or industry) Interns are immersed in Amazon's culture grounding their work in Amazon's Leadership Principles. Leadership principles are a set of guidelines that Amazonians use to make decisions and act on their responsibilities. Some leadership principles at Amazon include:

- Customer obsession -starting with the customer and working backwards, earning and keeping customer trust.
- Learn and be curious - learners are never done learning and seek to improve themselves
- Bias for action -working quickly to make decisions and get work done.



Step 3

Community & Culture

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 6](#) and [Video 7](#)



Mid-Stop Trivia Review

Interns at Amazon follow Amazon's Leadership Principles. What is a leadership principle?

- A. The person in charge, like the leader of a school
- B. Rules for behavior in meetings.
- C. Values that guide decisions and actions.**
- D. A welcome video for newbies.

Beyond the chance to work on engaging, high-impact projects, the Amazon internship experience is also renowned for its vibrant social and community-building elements. Interns have ample opportunities to connect with their peers through a variety of social events, team-building activities, and networking sessions. Networking is building and cultivating professional relationships for the purpose of exchanging information, generating new opportunities, and advancing a career. From lively hackathons and invention fairs to outdoor adventures and themed parties, there are always exciting ways for interns to bond, collaborate, and let loose. This sense of camaraderie and shared purpose helps foster a dynamic, energetic culture where interns can thrive, both professionally and personally.



Step 3

Community & Culture

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 6](#) and [Video 7](#)

Review Question

What is **NOT** a benefit of networking during an internship?

- A. Improving communication skills.
- B. Discovering potential future career options.
- C. Expanding knowledge about different roles in the company.
- D. Avoiding having to work on your project.**



Stop 3 Standards

ISTE Standards

Knowledge Constructor: 1.3.a Effective Research Strategies

Students use effective research strategies to find resources that support their learning needs, personal interests and creative pursuits.

Creative Communicator:

1.6.a Choose Platforms or Tools

Students choose the appropriate platforms and digital tools for meeting the desired objectives of their creation or communication.

Empowered Learner

1.1b Customized Learning Environments

Students build networks and customize their learning environments in ways that support the learning process.



Stop 4



Application Process & Conclusion

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 8](#)

Pre-Stop Trivia Poll

True or False: There are multiple pathways to becoming an intern at Amazon or other tech companies.

A. True B. False

What tips would you give for completing an internship application?

Scholarships are payments that support students' education.

Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship & Internship: Each year, Amazon Future Engineer offers scholarships up to \$40,000 to students who will be studying computer science in college. These scholarships also come with a paid internship between freshman and sophomore years. Applications open in the fall of each year and close a few months later. Students answer essay questions and informational questions in their application. Winners are notified in the spring.



Stop 4



Application Process & Conclusion

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 8](#)

Current eligibility requirements for the AFE Scholarship and Internship include:

- Be a high school senior in the U.S. who is currently enrolled in or who has completed a high school or college dual degree course where computer science or engineering is the subject. Students who have not taken this course can opt-in to take an assessment offered by Amazon.
- Must be authorized to work in the U.S. Example: Employment Authorization Document holder, Permanent Resident, or U.S. Citizen.
- Must demonstrate financial need.
- Be planning to attain a bachelor's degree in computer science, software engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, or other computer science related field of study from an accredited 4-year college or from a 2-year college with the intent to transfer to a 4-year college.
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.3 on a 4.0 scale (or its equivalent).

If students do not receive the scholarship and internship, there are still opportunities to become an intern at Amazon!



Stop 4



Application Process & Conclusion

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 8](#)

Amazon University Talent Acquisition Internships: Amazon has paid internships available for students. While many students become Software Development Engineer and Hardware Development Engineer interns, other types of internships exist including User Experience (UX), research, finance, and more. Students can go to amazon.jobs, click on “Opportunities for Students” and identify open roles. Students can complete the application and some students are invited to complete an interview. Students may also have to complete a coding task in a technical interview to demonstrate abilities. While an internship is not guaranteed, this is another opportunity to earn experience at Amazon.

When applying for an internship at Amazon, it's crucial to thoroughly research the company and understand its unique culture and business priorities. Amazon places a strong emphasis on innovation, customer obsession, and data-driven decision making. Familiarize yourself with the company's leadership principles, which serve as the foundation for how Amazon operates. Demonstrating your alignment with these principles, as well as your passion for solving complex problems, will help you stand out in the highly competitive internship application process.

In addition to technical skills, Amazon also values candidates who exhibit strong communication, collaboration, and adaptability. Be prepared to showcase examples of how you've worked effectively within a team, taken initiative to drive projects forward, and been able to pivot in the face of changing priorities. Emphasize your ability to learn quickly, think critically, and deliver results, as these qualities are highly valued by the company.



Stop 4 Standards



ISTE Standards

Empowered Learner:

1.1a Learning Goals

Students set learning goals, develop strategies leveraging technology to achieve them and reflect on the learning process to improve learning outcomes.

Knowledge Constructor

3a. Students use effective research strategies to find resources that support their learning needs, personal interests and creative pursuits.

Global Collaborator

1.7.b Multiple Viewpoints

Students use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts and community members, to examine issues and problems from multiple viewpoints.



Polls

Poll

After watching this tour, how likely are you to apply for an internship at a tech company like Amazon?

- 1 – Extremely Unlikely
- 2 - Unlikely
- 3 - Neither Unlikely nor Likely
- 4 - Likely
- 5 - Extremely Likely

Rate your overall tour experience on a scale of 1-5

- 1 - Extremely Unsatisfactory
- 2 - Unsatisfactory
- 3 - Neither Unsatisfactory or Satisfactory
- 4 - Satisfactory
- 5 - Extremely Satisfactory

How interested are you in pursuing careers in technology?

- 1 - Very uninterested
- 2 - Uninterested
- 3 - Neither interested nor uninterested
- 4 - Interested
- 5 - Very interested

How did this tour affect your interest in pursuing careers in technology?

- 1 - Decreased
- 2 - No change
- 3 - Increased

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I feel like I belong in careers in technology.

- 1 - Strongly Disagree
- 2 - Disagree
- 3 - Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 4 - Agree
- 5 - Strongly Agree



Stop 4

Application Process & Conclusion

Watch this Tour Stop in: [Video 9](#)

Whether at Amazon or elsewhere, internships provide a valuable experience that help students determine what they like and do not like about a career, while gaining invaluable real world, hands-on experience. In internship experiences, students complete projects, learn company culture, network with other employees, and make lifelong friends.



Rapid Fire Review



Review

Why are internships an important opportunity?

- A. They provide real world experience.
- B. They clarify what you enjoy and dislike in a career.
- C. They help you build a professional network.
- D. All of the answer choices are correct.**

Over the summer, interns complete ____ to build coding skills and gain experience in the field.

- A. leadership principles
- B. projects**
- C. scholarships
- D. jargon

How might an intern show **ownership** during their internship experience?

- A. Taking credit for other people's work.
- B. Making major decisions that could negatively affect the company.
- C. Asking questions to better understand the work.**
- D. Refusing to work with other team members.

