Finding Your Computing Summer Internship or 6 Month Placement

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Application Timeline

First Year	
Autumn Term	- Attend selected ACI lectures - Attend Fresher's Fair and join clubs and societies/consider volunteering opportunities/other ways to develop your CV as detailed above - Get registered on DoC's Corporate Partnership Programme Portal (CPP) and JobsLive set your profile to receive your preferred vacancies/alerts - If you do not have a LinkedIn profile, create one - Begin to research career options - Attend careers events and fairs (IT & Technology Fair is usually in early November) - Research internships, 'Insight Programmes' or 'Spring Weeks' and start applying. Deadlines for internships/insights range from October – March. Generally the banks and large graduate recruiters will have the earliest deadlines (Oct-Nov) with small organisations deadlines ranging from January – March. - Prepare your CV - Prepare for interviews/assessment centres
Spring Term	- Final deadlines for internships and insights - Insights and Spring Weeks usually take place over Easter - Consider your plans for summer if you do not already have an internship secured

Summer Term	- Consider running for a students' union society committee position or as an academic representative in your department
	 - Visit the Careers Service during their 'quiet season' (which extends into the Summer Vacation) to:
	     ○ Obtain any help needed for your internship placement search and decide which companies you would like to target
	     ○ Review CV and covering letter

Summer Vacation	- Make the most of your summer with an internship/summer job/volunteering
Second Year	
Autumn Term	- Attend selected ACI lectures - Continue with career planning activities started in first year Autumn term - Update your CPP Portal, JobsLive and LinkedIn profiles - If you are BEng this is a key time to make penultimate year internship applications - If you are MEng you can still apply for Insights - If you are planning to complete an MEng Computing degree, and want your 3rd year placement to be at Facebook, apply for a second year internship with them, as this is the only route to getting a 3rd year 6 month placements (Joint Maths and Computing MEng students do not need to do this, as Facebook offer 4 month placements)
Spring Term	- Final internship/insights deadlines

	- Carefully consider your choice of Second Year Group project, to ensure that it enhances your CV as well as gaining you academic credit and enjoyment
Summer Term	- Visit the Careers Service to: o Start planning for placement/graduate job search and decide which companies you would like to target o Review CV and covering letter
Summer Vacation	Make the most of your summer with an internship/insight/summer job/volunteering

Third Year	
Autumn Term	BEng: - Update your CPP Portal, JobsLive and LinkedIn profiles - Carefully consider your choice of Third Year Group project, to ensure that it enhances your CV as well as gaining you academic credit and enjoyment - Attend selected ACI lectures with an eye on graduate positions - If you are BEng this is a key time to make penultimate year internship applications - Apply for graduate jobs/further study MEng: - Aim to attend as many ACI lectures as possible to expand your networks and knowledge of sectors and available opportunities - Carefully consider your choice of Third Year Group project, to ensure that it enhances your CV as well as gaining you academic credit and enjoyment - Update your CPP Portal, JobsLive and LinkedIn profiles - If you are BEng this is a key time to make penultimate year internship applications - Finalise CV (send to Victoria Nicholl, Industrial Liaison Manager, DoC) - Check application drafts via 20 minute consultations at Careers Service or lunchtime appointments in DoC - Apply for placements - Prepare for interviews/assessment centres - book a mock interview with Sarmini Ghosh (Careers Consultant, Careers Service) - Read up about the Erasmus scheme if you are planning to do a placement in Europe, this might well be an extra source of funding for you
Spring Term	- Interviews/assessment centres for graduate jobs and placements continue - Review interview performance: o Which questions did you feel comfortable answering? o Which ones did you find difficult? o What do you need to improve on and how can you do this? o Did the experience highlight any gaps in your experience/skill set? How can you fill these gaps? o How did you feel about your self-presentation (voice projection, confidence/nerves. Professionalism, body language) - Placement must be approved by DoC by beginning of March
Summer Term	- MEng placements
Summer Vacation	- MEng Placements

Fourth Year	
Autumn Term	- Reflect on your placement (what were the positives, key achievements, challenges, would you consider a career with this employer/sector/job role). Discuss with a careers consultant if required. - Attend selected ACI lectures with an eye on graduate positions - Update your CPP Portal, JobsLive and LinkedIn profiles - Make applications for graduate jobs/further study
Spring Term	- Continue to make applications for graduate jobs/further study
Summer Term	- Continue to make applications for graduate jobs/further study - Visit the Careers Service during their 'quiet season' (which extends into the Summer Vacation) to obtain any help needed for your graduate job search
Summer Vacation	- Hopefully you have a job lined up and can have a lovely relaxing summer!

Getting Prepared – Researching Your Career Options

Obtaining a Computing degree from Imperial College will make you highly employable as the skills developed on your degree are greatly sought after by employers in every sector. You should ensure you research your career options and consider what industry sector you would prefer so that you can choose to complete an internship in a sector that maximises the benefits for your career.

Things to consider:

- Would you prefer to work for a small start-up or a large multi-national company?
- What sector would you be interested in gaining experience in? This could range from education, government, finance, consultancy, games, software companies and more. All job sectors will require computing students.
- What job role are you keen to explore? Job titles include software developer, applications developer, systems developer, analyst, IT consultant, games developer, data scientist. Find out more on the Careers Service Information Technology page or the Prospects website
- Have a look at what previous Imperial Computing students have done after graduation to give you some ideas
- Find out where previous DoC students have gone for their 6 month industrial placement
- Attend 'Applications of Computing in Industry' lectures

Getting Prepared - Develop Your Skills

Being successful in the race for an internship means starting early. Recruiters are looking for a range of transferable and technical skills so in order to be considered for a position you need to start building the evidence of how you meet those skills early on in your degree.

Demonstrate your transferable skills through:

- Taking part in clubs and societies – Imperial College Student Union has hundreds that you can get involved in
- Take on a committee position or become an academic representative (this will show leadership experience, plus planning an event or group meetings shows your organisational abilities and any challenges you face along the way will be great to demonstrate problem solving)
- Volunteering (consider teaching with Team-Up and the Imperial Hub has lots of opportunities including the Technoporters and CoderDojo schemes)
- Limited part-time work, perhaps a Saturday job (find opportunities on JobsLive or other student jobs boards, remember to take note of Imperial's student employment during studies policy). Remember, your degree is extremely demanding, so we recommend carefully considering whether you can meet your academic obligations if you take on even a few hours a week of work
- Start your own business – get help from Imperial Create Lab

Technical skills will be developed through your course and any projects you undertake but many people also choose to further develop their technical skills outside of their course. You could consider:

- Finding out which programming languages are used in the particular company or sector you are considering and then teaching yourself any languages that you don't already know using websites like Codecademy.
- Design your own apps/software – if there is commercial potential get help from Imperial Create Lab
- Take part in competitions and challenges

Getting Prepared - Attend Careers workshops/appointments

Workshops

The Careers Service runs daily afternoon seminars (16.15 – 17.15) to prepare you for all aspects of the internship application process including CVs, application forms, interviews and assessment centres. Longer lunchtime workshops (12.30 – 14.00) each day provide a chance to practice all aspects of the interview and assessment centre process.

The Careers Service also delivers talks in Computing specifically for DoC students – look out for emails from the department with more details.

Appointments

The Careers Service runs daily 20 minute appointments (bookable from 7am on the day) as well as weekly lunchtime appointments.

All appointments and central Careers Service workshops can be booked on JobsLive.

Finding Internships/Placements - Advertised Roles

- Sign up to the CPP Portal and make sure your profile displays you to full advantage. See what opportunities and events are listed.
- Visit JobsLive and ensure you set your profile to receive notifications of relevant new vacancies.
- Visit the DoC webpage detailing vacancies notified to the department
- There is a separate website with placement vacancies
- There are many other internship jobs boards such as Step. A google search will uncover lots more! Don't forget to register your email address so that new vacancies are sent to you.

Finding Internships/Placements - Speculative Applications

- Find a company to approach by using:
    o The advanced company search on LinkedIn (LinkedIn can also be helpful to find contacts to approach in the company)
    o For smaller companies try the Silicon Milkroundabout which run careers fairs and also list tech start-ups that they have previously worked with. Built in London also lists various tech start-ups as does this DueDil blog.

For further advice on advertised and speculative approaches visit the Careers Service Internships & Placements website.

Resources

Researching Career Options	Prospects Job Sectors
	Careers Service Information Technology
	Prospects Types of Jobs
Finding advertised Internships & Placements	CPP Portal
	JobsLive
	DoC vacancy webpage
	DoC placement vacancies
Making speculative internship applications	Silicon Milkroundabout
	Built in London
Application & Selection including CVs & Covering Letters, Application Forms, Interviews & Assessment Centres	Careers Service Advice
	Careers Service Handouts

Key Contacts

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