



FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Nurturing Brilliance ★ Transforming Generations

ConnectTheDots - Apr/2016 - Summer Plans

Dear FFE Scholars,

Summer holidays are just around the corner. One of the most frequent questions FFE staff members hear from our students is - "Can you help me get an internship?"

Internships are a great option for building your professional experience and expanding your network. Unfortunately, there are many more students seeking internships than there are internships available. Many companies do not see the benefit in hiring short-term workers who require significant training.

The good news is that an internship is not the only way to prepare yourself for your job placement. There are some great alternatives to internships that can help you to build your skills to get the job you want post-graduation.

Read this month's e-mailer for tips on getting an internship and ideas for other ways to be productive during your summer holidays.

What will you do this summer?

Get an Internship

On the hunt for an internship? Do your research! Asking for a generic internship in your industry makes you look lazy and unprepared. Find companies that you want to work for. Be ready to talk about what interests you about that company and why you want to work for them.

1. Search these sites to find internships:
 - www.Twenty19.com
 - www.internshala.com
 - www.letsintern.com
 - www.mysummertraining.com
2. Use LinkedIN contacts to reach out to a company that you want to intern with. Consider the possibility of an unpaid internship.

3. Send FFE a detailed proposal for what kind of internship you are seeking and your resume.
 4. Ask for help in the FFE LinkedIn groups for:
 - [FFE IT and Computer Science Engineering](#)
 - [FFE Medicine](#)
 - [FFE Electronics/Communication Engineering](#)
 - [FFE Mechanical Engineering](#)
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Make Yourself Job- and Internship-Ready

Preparing a solid resume and LinkedIn profile takes time that students often do not have during the semester. Your resume and LinkedIn profile are your first and best chance to make good impression on a potential employer. They must be detailed and error-free. Make time during your summer holidays to make yourself an attractive internship/job candidate for next year by:

- Creating and polishing your resume
 - See resume samples on [Monster.com](#)
 - Building your LinkedIn profile and presence
 - See the [FFE LinkedIn group](#) feed for ideas about how to better use LinkedIn
 - Making a list of companies that you are interested in working for and researching their job postings and company profiles
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Get Back to Basics

Are you:

- An industrial engineer who is not able to explain JIT in terms of inventory management?
- A mechanical engineer who is not able to explain fluid dynamics?
- A computer engineer who does not know about hackathon?

The feedback FFE receives about our students who have done mock interviews is that their basic concepts and knowledge are weak!

Use your summer holidays to brush up on basics by

- Reviewing your books and school materials for full comprehension
 - Taking online courses
 - Check out [ChalkStreet.com](#) and [OliveBoard.com](#).
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Read a Book

Reading improves your English-language skills, expands your perspective, and helps you to think critically -- all important skills for getting a good job.

Here are some inspiring and thought-provoking suggestions from FFE staff:

- [Change by Design](#) by Tim Brown is recommended by Neeta Ramnath for its very inspiring stories about how new designs and innovation can be successfully implemented.
- [Rich Dad Poor Dad](#) by Robert Kiyosaki is recommended by Apeksha Chatriki for its discussion of money management and strategies you can use to make/lose money, especially at the start of a career.
- [Animal Farm](#) by George Orwell and [Catcher in the Rye](#) by J.D. Salinger are classic novels recommended by Alyssa Laltlanmawii for everyone to read once in their lifetime.
- [Iacocca: An Autobiography](#) by Lee Iacocca is recommended by Preeti Chauhan for its inspiring story of an American businessman in the car industry.

Have you read an interesting book? Share it with your fellow FFE scholars on the [FFE FB page](#). Let us know what you've read and why you liked it.

Participate in an FFE Training Course

This summer, FFE is offering two courses:

- A two-week placement readiness course for all of our third year scholars in five locations around India. This course will prepare students in the following areas: aptitude tests, CV preparation, group discussions, and personal interviews. There will be mock tests, mock interviews and discussions with members of the industry. Third year scholars should be receiving information about this training by email. If you are a third year student and have not received an email, let us know.
 - A two-week course on entrepreneurship. Check your email regularly for more updates on this soon.
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Do a Research Project or Experiment with an Entrepreneurial Idea

Developing and completing your own project is an excellent way to show your initiative and interest in your industry - key traits that companies look for.

- Pay attention to any area of study or extracurricular activity that sparked your interest during the school year.
- Pick a recent advancement in your field, from your studies or a journal and approach a professor about working on a research project.

- Follow up on an entrepreneurial idea that you didn't have time to develop during the school year. Identify a problem and develop an innovative solution. Brainstorm with peers, professors, or professionals in the field. Make a realistic plan for moving forward.

Make sure to choose something that *really* interests you. Practice sharing information about your project with others. Companies can tell the difference between job candidates who are passionate about something and those who are just meeting their requirements.

Volunteer in your Community

Many of you will be returning to your native home. Use your summer holiday to make a positive difference in your community. Companies appreciate job candidates who are thoughtful, charitable and eager to make a social impact. Ideas include:

- Tutoring promising students
 - Using your newly developed technical skills and knowledge to solve a local problem
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Stay Connected with the FFE Community

Doing something interesting? We want to hear about it and so do your fellow FFE Scholars:

- Start a conversation in your LinkedIn industry group
- Post a message on the [FFE Facebook](#) group
- Send an email to jenika@ffe.org