

Finding Summer Opportunities

Harvey Mudd College students are wise to use their summers to gain experience. There are many options, from research on campus or another institution to a paid internship in an industry of interest. Choose the option that will help you gain experience in your potential field.

Research

If you are planning to pursue graduate school, most likely you will conduct research on or off campus. The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds a program called Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs). Opportunities can be found through the NSF website, through faculty members and in articles on Handshake, our career management system.

In the fall, the OCS and the associate dean of research and experiential learning organize a meeting at which faculty representatives from all academic departments discuss summer research at HMC.

Temporary/Part-time Jobs

You may need to return home to work and/or may simply need a temporary job. These positions are not always career-related but are usually helpful for extra income. To locate opportunities, use Handshake and other websites. The OCS can assist in crafting letters of inquiry to potential employers.

Internships

Internships are an essential element of a college student's career development. In these short-term positions, you apply classroom knowledge, gain skills, acquire experience and receive expert supervision.

Internships are an excellent opportunity for you to learn about an industry of interest, get experience to put on your resume and make contacts for future employment. They vary greatly: paid and unpaid; full-time, part-time, three months or less. Most HMC students find paid internships. There is limited funding available for unpaid internships (see below). HMC does not give academic credit for internships. It is more common to find internships after your junior year.

Finding Support for Unpaid Internships

Students must have received an offer or be a finalist for a summer internship to be eligible for a funded award. The Office of Career Services and the Office of Community Engagement are happy to assist students in their search. For information about the summer internship funding awards process, please contact the Office of Community Engagement.

The Donald and Dorothy Strauss Internship for Social Understanding

Established by Donald and Dorothy Strauss to engender in the participating students a significant and deep commitment to a lifetime of service activities. Internships at local nonprofit social service agencies can be funded. First-year students, sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply.

The Ben Huppe '14 Memorial Internship for a Sustainable World

Established by Maggie Lewis and Bob Huppe in honor and memory of their son, Ben, to honor his passion for science and technology and the role it plays in improving the environment and/or bringing technical solutions to underserved domestic and international populations. The internship should involve direct, hands-on work in areas such as renewable energy, green technologies, environmental sustainability and/or the use of technology to solve problems of under-served population with domestic or international small- to medium-sized companies (nonprofit) or service projects and programs. First-year students and sophomores are eligible to apply.

The Nathaniel Davis Prize for Public Policy and International Relations

Established by Howard C. Deshong III '89 and Jeannette Deshong in honor and memory of the late Nathaniel Davis, HMC professor emeritus of political science. Enables HMC students HMC students who have an interest in public policy and/or international relations to pursue their interest more formally through a summer experiential learning experience nationally or abroad. The internship should involve direct, hands-on work in areas such as advocacy, public policy, international relations or foreign policy with a domestic or international nonprofit social service and or government agency. First-year students, sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply.

The New Millennium Experiential Learning Fund

Established by Aaron Archer '98 and Gregory Rae '00 to engender in the participating students a significant and deep commitment to a lifetime of service activities. Internship can be at a domestic or international nonprofit social service agency. First-year students, sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply.

Before you begin looking for internships, think about what field you want to explore. Will you need transportation? Where will you live? Where do you want to work, and how much do you need to make?

Some Ways to Find Internships

- Handshake
- Fall and spring job and internship fairs held on campus.
- Weekly newsletters from OCS.
- Leads from faculty, friends, employers, family and current students.
- OCS has a list of some international internship opportunities on Handshake and on our website.
- Referrals on MuddCompass

The OCS will support your efforts to find the best summer opportunity.
Please see us for assistance.