

2020 Industry Internships for Biomedical Career Development

Industry internships are a critical component of the Sackler mission to train to career excellence in academia and across the biomedical workforce. They provide students the opportunity to inform their career decisions, expose them to corporate culture, and provide networking opportunities outside the academy. A pilot program launched in Summer 2017 established the mechanism for internships. Internship applications consist of a dossier prepared by the student; a coversheet co-signed by the lab mentor (or program director) giving their permission for the student to take a leave of absence; and a plan for continued progress on the thesis project during the leave.

The Sackler Dean's Office partners with a variety of companies, ranging from large biotech firms to small start to consulting companies and venture capital firms, to develop internship opportunities. Potential partners include Agios; COTA Healthcare; Cedara; Flagship Pioneer; Magenta Therapeutics; and others still in negotiation. After the application deadline, dossiers will be presented to participating companies that align with the student's interest. Should there be interest in the student for an internship position, company officers will contact the student directly for an interview

Timing

Many companies have internship programs offered during the summer (usually June, July and August), but internships may also be scheduled at other times. Exact start and end dates, as well as timing, are flexible, depending on the needs and wants of the hiring organizations. Generally, internships will be 3 months; in rare circumstances, such as alignment with the thesis project or a research collaboration with the company, they may be extended to 6 months.

Internships may take place at any time during a student's PhD experience, but should be at a time that makes sense for the student, the PI, and the research project. To prevent adding to time to completion, the internship will be completed as a leave of absence.

- **Summer of Year 1** – Students who have completed or are in process of completing their qualifying exam may apply for an internship to take place prior to the start of their lab work. If the qualifying exam is not completed prior to the start of the internship, the student would need to work with their qualifying exam committee and internship employer to arrange time for the exam. Preparation for the exam would need to take place outside internship hours. Students would delay the start of their lab work until the conclusion of the internship. The program director would need to give approval for the internship; when the lab placement is finalized, the PI should be notified of the delayed start.
- **During Lab Research** – Students in active lab research may apply for an internship with the understanding of the impact on the lab and their ongoing research. While on a leave of absence, students are not expected to work in the

- lab, so students will need to plan for any necessary continuation of the research project during the internship. Approval of the PI will be required.
- **After Thesis Completion** – Students who have completed their thesis and have not yet begun a post-doc or full-time position may apply for a post-completion internship. Since an internship will usually be during the summer months, timing of thesis completion will need to be considered with regard to termination of Tufts payroll and health benefits.

Short-term, part-time, unpaid experiences can also be arranged. These do not constitute an internship, but provide valuable experiential learning and may be done without a leave of absence.

Compensation

Stipend and health insurance through Tufts will cease for students on a leave of absence for an internship. Students will work with the hiring organization to cover the stipend and health insurance costs.

Eligibility

While all students are eligible to apply for an internship, eligibility for international students is limited. Due to visa restrictions on work during an academic program, international students on an F-1 visa are not eligible for an internship at any time they are enrolled. International students on an F-1 visa are eligible through the post-completion OPT program for an internship, following completion of their thesis and defense. It is advised to consult with the International Student Office to understand the full impact of post-completion OPT on visa status and work eligibility.

Application

To be eligible for consideration, students will collaborate with their student advisor (first year students) or their research mentor (upper level or graduating students) to create a 2-page dossier that describes who they are, their career goal, their planned or current research and, for students applying during their lab research, how they plan to keep their lab project moving forward while they are away for the internship. Partner companies will be provided with dossiers to select students for consideration. Applicants are not guaranteed an internship.

The attached cover sheet and dossier should be submitted to Alex Israel (alexandra.israel@tufts.edu) no later than **January 2, 2019** for consideration for a 2020 internship.

2020 Industry Internship Cover Sheet

Name: _____

Program: _____

Year Entered Sackler: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Research Mentor: _____

Undergraduate Degree and Institution: _____

Other Degrees and Institution: _____

On separate pages (up to two), please discuss the following:

- Who you are – a short biographic statement of your scientific background and what relevant skills you possess for an industry internship.
- Your career goals, and how they tie into an internship.
- What you hope to learn/experience in the internship.
- Your project and/or current research; where you are in completing the work.
- How you plan to keep your research moving forward while on internship (only for students currently performing research).
- Any other information that may prove useful for the corporate partner.

All Students: I am interested in securing an internship for 2020 and understand the parameters regarding the internship program

Student Signature

Date

Students currently in their 1st year or completing their thesis: I support this student's application for a 2020 internship

Program Director Signature

Date

Students currently doing lab research: I support this student's application for a 2020 internship and will work with the student to maintain their lab work during the internship period

Mentor Signature

Date

Submit to Alex Israel (alexandra.israel@tufts.edu) **no later than January 2, 2019.**