

# Summer Internships

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# Practical Value of Internship

- Experience
- Improve resume (+ papers)
- Try out potential career alternatives
  - Industry
  - National Laboratory
  - Academia
- Live in a different area
- See different work environments
  - research, product, etc.
- Remember why you are in school

# Getting Started: Finding An Internship

- Common Intern Hiring Windows
  - November
  - February
- Professors and advisors contacts
- Apply to large national programs
- Career Center
- Network!
  - Conferences
  - Career fairs
  - Professional meet-ups

## Preparing your application materials and yourself

- Get your web page up-to-date –highlight experience
  - Link in a copy of your CV (get critiques)
- Create a LinkedIn page
- Do mock interviews
- Identify at least three references
- Develop and practice an ‘elevator pitch’
- If on a visa, know what paperwork is expected

# Exercise

## Elevator Pitches

- Break into groups of 4-5 and have each person give their 60 second elevator pitch
- Spend time discussing techniques that were particularly effective

## Example: Hiring Process at ???

- Detail hiring process at top company

# Interview: Putting Your Best Foot Forward

- Before the interview
  - Ask about the format of the interview
  - Research the company/group/personnel
- The Interview
  - Show motivation and enthusiasm
  - Ask clarifying questions
  - Ask about particular projects
  - Talk through as you answer technical/complicated questions
  - Be ready to ask a few questions of each interviewer
  - Ask about their decision timeline
- After the Interview
  - Send thank you notes to the folks that you meet
  - Follow up in ~1 month

## Interview: Common Questions

- What are your strengths/weakness?
- Give an example of how you handled a difficult situation
- Puzzle/Brain teaser
- Coding Challenge



# Interview Exercise

## Mock Interviews

- Pair up with one person.
- Play the interviewer and the other the interviewee
- Then switch roles
- Format
  - 5 minute questions
  - 3 minute feedback

# Now That You Got the Job, What's Next?

- Before the Start Date
  - Ask what to prepare
  - Agree start/end + any necessary time off
- On the Job
  - Do a good job!
  - Understand expectations and deliverables
  - Keep your supervisor informed of your progress
  - Interact with the people around you (learn the culture)
  - Attend talks and seminars
  - Work independently but don't be afraid to ask for help
  - Have fun!

## Post Internship: After Job, What's Next?

- Keep in touch with host, recruiters, etc.
- Ask about the hiring process for full time
- Ask about the potential for returning next year
- Write a paper about the work