

How To Get an Internship in Tech

Interested in getting an internship? Here are a few things to look out for to set yourself up for success when looking to get an internship in tech!

1. RESUME

Everyone has the potential to create a great resume, even if you have no technical job/internship experience (class projects, personal projects, and more can show your software experience)

Resume Rules:

1. One Page

Your resume should fit on one page, no exceptions. Better yet, your resume should take up exactly one page, so there shouldn't be a lot of empty space either

2.. Use a Template

You can find resume templates online, on your college's career center site, and right here! Don't go rogue and try to work your own document magic -- the best way to be easy to read is to give recruiters what they're used to seeing..

You can use just about any template as long as it's easy to read. The only rule for fonts, colors, layouts, etc, is to not overdo it.

3. Non-negotiable Sections

There is no one right set of actions to have on a resume. But every resume should contain four core sections, which should generally be in the following order:

1. Contact Info: the very top section of the resume should list your name, email, LinkedIn, and Github.
2. Education: describing where you go to school, when you'll graduate, and what courses you've taken
3. Relevant Experience: describing what you've built with your technical skills
4. Skills: listing the programming languages and other technologies you've learned so far.

2. APPLICATIONS

Apply early and often

Be aware of recruiting cycles.. A decent rule of thumb is that the best time to apply is in the **first half of a given semester**. Companies are looking as early as September of one year for employees to start work in or after the summer of the next year. Start applying to internships as soon as possible, and apply for more than you think you should.

That being said, it is never "too late" to apply, including a couple months before a job starts (and in some cases, much shorter time frames apply).

Apply to anything you're interested in, even if you're not nominally qualified for it, e.g. if it says "new grad" but says they want Java experience...even if you don't have it, you can still apply.

Ways to Find Jobs

- Centralized sites with several listings:
 - Handshake, LinkedIn, Glassdoor, indeed
 - Crowdsourced Github Pages: try googling "github [summer/fall/winter] [year] internship"
- Useful Tools
 - <https://simplify.jobs/>
 - <https://stillhiring.today/>
- To find smaller companies / startups: AngleList, YCombinator
- Referrals from Friends / Colleagues
- Applying Directly on the Company Career website
- Messaging LinkedIn Recruiters
- Career Fairs

3. INTERVIEWS

Practice is so important

We can view interviewing like a sport or a new game. You have “building muscles / athleticism” through your coursework, but even athletic people need to practice to become good at a sport that’s new to them.

Some research shows that you double your chances of passing a technical interview once you have done 5+ interviews.

Failing your technical interview does NOT mean you are not a good engineer. It just means you need **more practice** at the “game” of interviewing.

Interview Advice

- You do NOT have to write mistake-free code to get a “hire” decision.
- Your interviewer may not engage with you much. Don’t be anxious about this.

GENERAL ADVICE

Different companies will have different things to offer, and there is no one “best way” to start your career. One heuristic is that as long as you are learning, you are setting yourself up for success.

Job hunting for the first role is hard for everyone. Because resumes are screened inefficiently, even the most qualified applicants may have to apply to literally hundreds of companies. Know that it gets much easier to get jobs once you have had one tech role or internship.

Both of these are very real: imposter syndrome (doubting yourself and thinking you don’t / won’t deserve to be where you are) and duck syndrome (seeing everyone else look completely calm on the surface but in reality, they are frantically trying to keep up with everything like everyone else).

You got this! Now go out there and get that internship!

How to Prepare

- LeetCode
 - To work through LeetCode efficiently, there are curated lists of questions that are particularly useful for interviews: LeetCode Patterns, Questions by Patterns. (links below)
- Mock Interviews (pair up with a friend if nothing else!)
- Online courses / videos

Your priorities should be: (in this order)

1. You want to be able to write code like a fish can swim (once you have an algorithm down, you can convert it to code easily)
2. You want to have practiced the code interview format, specifically
3. You want to be proficient in as many algorithmic topics as possible.

LINKS

Resume Examples

No Experience: <https://bit.ly/noExperienceResumeExample>

Some Experience: <https://bit.ly/someExperienceResumeExample>

Interview Prep

Tech Interview Handbook (<https://techinterviewhandbook.org/>) is a great and comprehensive guide for all interviews.

LeetCode: (<https://seanprashad.com/leetcode-patterns/>)

Questions by Patterns (<https://bit.ly/leetcodeCommonPatterns>)

Are you a Freshman or Sophomore?

Some companies have programs specifically for you! Check out Meta University (<https://www.metacareers.com/careerprograms/pathways/metauniversity>) and Google STEP (<https://buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com/programs/step>), as well as other internships specifically targeting underclassmen