Economics Internship Guide

Economics 398 – Internship Course

Why should you do an internship?

An internship will give you experience that no class or course work can provide. It gives you the opportunity to apply what you’ve learned in the classroom to real-life situations, learn from people in the industry who have experience, and get hands-on experience by working alongside the experts.

It’s the “Do” of: Know – Do – Become

Top 6 reasons to do an internship:
1. It’s required
2. Valuable experience
3. Learn the practice of economics
4. Try out a prospective employer
5. Build your resume
6. There is no final exam!

When should you do your internship?

The best time for your internship is between your junior and senior year. You are encouraged to do it in your “off” track, but you can do it on another semester if you wish. To make the most of your experience, you should not be taking other classes during your internship. Also, completing Economics Statistics (ECON 278) and Econometrics (ECON 388) prior to your internship will give you the opportunity to do a quality research project that you can then use for a conference presentation or as a research sample for a prospective employer.

Think outside the ‘Burg

Internships are often done outside of the Rexburg and Intermountain West region. It’s a great opportunity to explore new places and regional cultures. So far, BYU-Idaho interns have worked in all 50 states and many foreign countries. Thousands of internship Experience Providers are registered in the BYU-Idaho Internship Database on Career Navigator. Because you might be completing your internship outside the area, it’s best to plan ahead financially as well as educationally.

Finding an internship

Students are responsible for securing their own internship experiences, but we’re definitely available to help! Follow these steps to get started:

- Learn about internship requirements and prerequisites
- Start planning early, your search should begin in your Junior year. Internship expeditions can help!
- Use your resources: networking, advising, Career Navigator, your department coordinator, etc.
- Internships MUST be directly related to your major.
- Get the internship approved (online registration form).
- You must be registered for an internship BEFORE beginning work.
- No credit will be given for previous/past experiences.

What your internship needs:
- From 10 to 15 weeks long
- At least 270 hours of work
- Work is done on-site (no telecommuting)
- Economics analysis/research as a component
- Research report required
- Manager/supervisor mentors student research

Registering for the ECON 398 course:

Prior to beginning the internship complete the following:

- Prerequisites:
  ✓ Minimum of 75 credits including 30 credits of the Foundations requirements for a Bachelor’s degree
  ✓ Introductory Core, plus 3 courses in the Major Core completed (with a C- or better)
- Introductory Core and Major Core courses must be completed with a minimum 2.5 GPA prior to taking the internship

- Register with Career Navigator of the BYU-Idaho Academic Discovery Center: [http://www.byui.edu/internships/basics](http://www.byui.edu/internships/basics)
- Fill out and submit the online internship registration form: [http://www.byui.edu/internships/approval](http://www.byui.edu/internships/approval)
- Once approved by the ADC and the internship coordinator for the department, you will receive an authorization email with instructions to add the Econ 398 course
- Access iLearn to review course assignments/deadlines
- Contact Ron Nate (coordinator) if you have questions:
  Office: Smith 104, Phone: 208-496-3810

Internship Summary Report:

Part of the Econ 398 course requirement. This report demonstrates professional research and presentation skills and includes five sections:

- Company Overview
- Internship Experience Summary
- Economics Research/Analysis Report
- Resume Section
- Networking / New Contacts Section