

INTERNSHIP DEFINITIONS (Cited from "Internships For Dummies®")

Internships

We define internship to mean "placement with an organization primarily to gain work experience, learn about the nature of that work, acquire skill and knowledge in doing that work, and acquire contacts that can assist in getting a job and building a career."

Externship

Same as internships but used to emphasize the fact that the placement is outside (external to) the student's academic program. Law schools, for example, often use this term. The term "internship" emphasizes being on the inside of the employing organization.

Practicum

A specialized type of internship usually done as part of an academic program, such as some programs in social work, nursing, educational administration, or health administration. Often a practicum is a requirement for a specific course.

Experiential Learning

Applies generally to any learning by actual experience, typically in an applied setting such as the workplace.

Service learning

Typically involves learning by service people as a volunteer. This service can be through a community group or organization, social services agency, recreation league, or other outlet.

Cooperative placement, cooperative education, or just co-op.

Usually refers to placements in business or industry that are part of an academic program in high school, college, or trade school. Sometimes the co-op placement alternates with terms in the classroom. Sometimes, as is typically the case in high school, co-op placements are intermingled with classroom study, for example, several hours a day.

Field work or field study

Another name for a placement experience done as part of an academic program.

Work-study

Applies to the Federal Work-Study program that

provides financial aid to undergraduate and graduate students with financial need. Students can learn and get paid for working in offices around campus or in organizations (for example, community service agencies or governments) off-campus. You can find out more about this topic in Chapter 5. (*Internships For Dummies*)

Intern

You or someone else getting experience and learning through an internship.

Employer

The organization – company, agency, theater company, laboratory or business – in which the intern is employed. Often we just use the generic term organization instead of continually repeating specific types of organizations such as companies, hospitals, government or nonprofit agencies, and the like. Usually we mean, "employing organization," but it can also have a more general meaning.

Intern Supervisor

The person in the organization where an intern is employed who is officially responsible for supervising the intern's work.

Educational institution

The college, trade school, graduate school, professional school, trade union, or other organization primarily responsible for ensuring that interns learn during their placement.

Academic advisor (or just advisor)

The teacher, professor, intern coordinator, or other person responsible for advising interns and guiding and overseeing their learning.

Mentor

Your guru and confessor, the one who most guides, enables, and influences your career. Your mentor may be your academic advisor or intern advisor but may also be someone else, either inside or outside your employing organization. Some placements are called mentorships. This typically means you will follow a mentor through his daily schedule, learning from the master. This assigned mentor may or may not become your real career mentor.