Experience Required

A new trend is visible in the business section of many recent publications. A number of articles state that, while students with no experience are welcome to apply for entry-level jobs, when competition is fierce—and it usually is—a full resume wins out.

The Times of London quoted Julia Dowd, of the Learning and Skills Council, who declared work experience “crucial in today’s competitive job market.”

The following sentiment, exclaimed by many recent graduates, appeared in the publication 24 Hours: “You can’t find a job because you don’t have experience, and you can’t acquire experience because you don’t have a job!”

As one might expect, career coaches and advisors are echoing the importance of this new global requirement. Peter Vogt, Career Coach for MonsterTRAK, stresses that experience is not optional in his online article “The New Reality for Entry-Level Jobs,” and goes on to deliver the solution to the “old and often-cited dilemma: How do you get experience if you need experience to land a job in the first place? Answer: Through internship or co-op programs, even unpaid.” (Visit http://content.monstertrak.monster.com/resources/archive/jobhunt/newentrylevel/ for the full article.)

Internships do more than pad a resume. The first internship becomes a foundation for your student’s career and the first building block for the two, three, or more...

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Team Effort Makes Expeditions Happen

Each year, the Public Service Center funds projects that provide the opportunity for MIT students to use their education, skills, and talents to address the needs of underserved communities around the world.

In one week, fifteen percent of current underclassmen made a donation to support Expedition Grants awarded by the Public Service Center and raised a total of $2,290, which will fund three full expedition grants.

To find out what motivates an underclassman donor, we turned to Zsuzsa Megyery ’09, a donor and volunteer for this initiative. He quoted John F. Kennedy, Jr., “To whom much is given, much is expected,” and proceeded to enlighten us with the following:

“MIT has taught me the significant impact of...even a five dollar contribution toward public service...to habitualize giving back and appreciating the many gifts you are given.”

For more details, visit http://giving.mit.edu/underclassmen-campaign/index.html.
Students can begin looking for an internship at any time. However, if an internship coincides with the academic year, it must be local for the student to continue taking classes. This makes summer one of the two best times (the other being MIT’s Independent Activities Period in the winter) to explore the myriad of options available off campus.

**Oh, no.** The spring semester is half over, and sometime between working on psets (MIT slang for problem sets) and attending study sessions, securing a summer internship has slipped your student's mind. Is it too late to make arrangements? Certainly not.

**Step One: Make an Appointment**
The first thing your student should do is schedule an appointment with the MIT Careers Office or take advantage of their walk-in hours: Monday through Friday 11:00 am–12:40 pm and on Wednesday evenings 5:00 pm–6:40 pm. The personalized guidance from an advisor can help students target the kind of opportunity that genuinely excites them. Before the meeting, the MIT Careers Office advisors recommend considering the following:

- **Skills:** Which ones should be developed during the internship? Which ones can be highlighted to get the internship?
- **Industries of interest**
- **Geographic locations desired**
- **Optimal working conditions and environment**

Once the advisor has determined what your student is looking to gain from an internship, he or she can also assist with drafting a resume and narrowing the scope of the search to companies whose requirements he or she would meet. The MIT Careers Office is like a “clearinghouse for employers,” says the assistant director of the Freshman/Alumni Summer Internship Program, Heather Bois Bruskin. There are sometimes limitations set regarding who may apply for an opportunity, she cautions. For example, some entities offering summer positions are willing to train younger students while others seek older students with more experience, and international opportunities usually have a language requirement.

**“The vast majority of jobs are secured through networking.”**

*Joel Garfinkle, an executive coach and founder of DreamJobCoaching.com*

**Step Two: Survey Your Resources**
If your student has no time to stop in for an appointment, guidance from the Careers Office can be found in other locations. In the Careers Office waiting room, informative summaries and tip sheets are available to take home, including a one-page tutorial on the basics of networking, the Career Development Timeline, and the Career Development Workbook for the current academic year—something every undergraduate should have. The Web site for the Careers Office is also a valuable tool, and many of the handouts in the office waiting room are available online: [http://web.mit.edu/career/www/](http://web.mit.edu/career/www/). Here, students can also view announcements for upcoming opportunities, such as the internship workshops held by the Careers Office, Freshman-Sophomore Career Week, and On-campus Recruiting. In addition, the site lists resources to explore for opportunities both on campus and outside of MIT.

**Step Three: Network**
Whether your student is working in tandem with a Careers Office advisor or on his or her own, one of the most effective ways to find an internship is through networking. This is especially true at this point in the year when a number of deadlines have already passed for existing summer offerings.

“Networking is not cheating,” Bois Bruskin reminds internship-seekers during appointments. Your student may be contacting you soon to see if you or anyone of your contacts know someone who can provide a connection to an ideal internship. Time your student spends at home on a mini-break may be used to network with friends, relatives, and even the pharmacist, dentist or other professionals. Your student
may also reconnect with the Educational Counselor who conducted his or her admittance interview, network online with the Institute Career Assistance Network (ICAN), and talk to members of the MIT faculty who may know of internships or be willing to take on students interested in their research.

Alternatively, your student may wish to call a company of interest and propose an internship. One option is to select a company recruiting for full-time positions on campus that has yet to consider taking on interns over the summer. Setting up an interview with a company representative should be fairly easy; the representative will frequent campus during the recruiting period.

**Step Four: Get Ready for Next Year**

Those who begin their search for an internship in the fall or winter will have a greater variety of options. Additionally, students seeking international internships or who plan to study abroad should begin preparations six months to a year beforehand.

The Alumni Association’s Student/Alumni Externship Program provides opportunities similar to internships and takes place during MIT’s Independent Activity Period (IAP) each January. Externships give students the opportunity to explore a career and offers alumni a chance to connect with current MIT students. Externships are offered by alumni sponsors working for companies primarily in the Boston, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, DC areas and last from a week to the entire length of IAP, depending on the desires of the sponsor. Please note that student applications are accepted in October.

**What Can You Do?**

Would your company be interested in offering an internship to an MIT student?

For internship information, visit [http://web.mit.edu/career/www/employers/](http://web.mit.edu/career/www/employers/). Contact the Careers Office to get things rolling at 617-253-4733 or mitco@mit.edu.

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**Washington Parents Receive Basketball Award for Going the Extra Mile (and Over 2,000 More)**

During half time of the men’s Alumni Varsity Basketball Game on February 17, 2007, the MIT Basketball Parent Appreciation Award was presented to Al and Mary Ann Huhs from Mercer Island, Washington, in recognition of their outstanding support of the team. This was part of a full day of activities, where alumni from 1959–2005 gathered to watch MIT play Clark University.

The award recipients, the Huhs, rarely missed a game during the four years that their son was on the team and flew in from the west coast to attend. Of their own initiative, they developed and maintained a parent email list and organized alumni and parent events at basketball tournaments around the country. In addition, they demonstrated their commitment to the team and to MIT by making generous gifts in support of the program.

**Did you know**

that the Parents Association sends out a quarterly e-newsletter with up-to-the-minute information on topics such as student insurance waiver deadlines, upcoming events for parents, volunteer opportunities, and Family Weekend?

If this information is new to you, we may not have your current email address in our records.

To ensure that the Parents Association is able to deliver the information you need to know when you need it, please update your information online: [http://alum.mit.edu/parents/information-update.html](http://alum.mit.edu/parents/information-update.html).

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**Campus Safety Report**

- To view the MIT Police log, visit [http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/crimlog.htm](http://web.mit.edu/cp/www/crimlog.htm)

**SAFETY TIP:** Students are encouraged to program 617-253-1212 into their cell phones for campus emergencies.

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MIT Parents Association


mykidis@mit.edu
Get Involved: Volunteer!

The MIT Parent Connectors are our dedicated volunteers who serve as a resource for both MIT parents and parents of prospective students.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Connector or participating in one of the upcoming events listed, please call us at 617-253-8183 or submit an interest form online: http://alum.mit.edu/parents/connectors/npc.html.

The Power of Participation

The collective impact of gifts from you and fellow parents helps our students and faculty change the world. Whether finding a cure for cancer, creating new energy sources, or excelling in research, studies, and sports, your support helps our community make it all happen.

One gift can make a difference, and participating in the MIT Parents Fund is a wonderful way to designate your gift to the exact program you wish to support. Visit the giving Web site at http://giving.mit.edu/parents to make your contribution.

HONOR with BOOKS

Create a lasting legacy for your student and enhance the libraries’ resources by participating in HONOR with BOOKS.

Each $100 donation will allow the MIT Libraries to purchase a book for their collection. A bookplate bearing the name of your student will be placed inside, and those who see it will know the book was purchased in honor of someone special, whose own quest for knowledge brought him or her to this extraordinary place.

For an online donation form, visit: http://alum.mit.edu/parents/honor-with-books/.

Upcoming Events

- Campus Preview Weekend
  April 12–15, 2007
- Summer Send-Off Events
  July–August 2007
- 2011 Parent Orientation
  August 24–27
- 2011 Welcome Calls
  August–September 2007
- Family Weekend
  October 12–14, 2007
Senior Week events are scheduled for June 1–7, 2007, and are planned by a committee of seniors and are sponsored in part by the MIT Alumni Association. Family and guests are invited to register for events taking place on June 1–7, 2007. Student-only event tickets can also be purchased by family members as gifts for their graduating senior.

Please note: tickets purchased by seniors and by guests or family members of a senior will be sent to the senior’s mailing address.

**Friday, June 1**  
**SENIORS ONLY**  
Wine Tasting (21+)  
8:00 pm–10:00 pm, MIT Faculty Club

**Saturday, June 2**  
**SENIORS ONLY**  
Dinner Train thru the Cape  
3:45 pm–10:30 pm (Transportation included.)

**Sunday, June 3**  
**SENIORS ONLY**  
Movies ’Til Midnight  
8:30 pm–12 Midnight, Kresge Lawn  
FREE

**Monday, June 4**  
**SENIORS ONLY**  
Six Flags New England Day Trip  
10 am–10 pm (Transportation included.)  
**SOLD OUT**

**Tuesday, June 5**  
**SENIORS ONLY**  
Move-Out Cookout  
12 Noon–2 pm, Kresge Oval  
FREE

Senior Field Day  
2 pm–6 pm, Barry Astroturf Field  
FREE

**Wednesday, June 6**  
Lunch Cruise on the Harbor  
OPEN EVENT - PARENTS WELCOME  
12 Noon–2:00 pm (11:30 am boarding.)

Downtown Faneuil Hall Pub Crawl (21+)  
**SOLD OUT**

**Thursday, June 7**  
**OPEN EVENTS - PARENTS WELCOME**  
Boston Duck Tour  
1:00 pm–2:30 pm (Ducks leave from MIT campus.)

Tech Night at the Pops  
8:00 pm–10:00 pm, Symphony Hall  
(Complimentary bus leaves campus @ 6:30 pm.)  
Join alumni for our MIT-only performance.  
Please note:  
Only students may purchase Tech Night tickets.  
6 ticket limit; available mid-May.  
First come, first served.

For more information and to order tickets securely online, visit [http://web.mit.edu/seniorweek](http://web.mit.edu/seniorweek), call 617-252-1143, or email srweek-request@mit.edu.
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POINT OF PRIDE:
MIT Scientists Make Cancer Breakthrough
For the full story, visit:

Family Weekend 2007
Friday, October 12–Sunday, October 14
http://alum.mit.edu/parents/family-weekend