The University of Maryland's Independent Student Newspaper

THE DIAMONDBACK

CAREER FAIR GUIDE 2021

EDITOR'S LETTER

DEAR READERS,

You're officially through almost a full month of the school year at this university. By now, you've most likely adjusted to campus life, met or reconnected with lifelong friends and figured out how to navigate your classes.

For many, the fall can be daunting. It's filled with stress and anxiety over transitions back into college life — and for many, it means leaving home for the first time. But it also brings new experiences and anticipation, and for those of you already thinking about your life after college, it's filled with the ever-overwhelming question: "What's next?"

Just as the leaves change and the season gets underway, so does the career fair season at this university. Interviews, networking events and resume workshops soon fill up students' schedules, and "the job market" suddenly becomes a phrase everyone is familiar with.

To help get you through this taxing time, The Diamondback created this Career Fair Guide. In these pages, you'll find resources such as tips for nailing an interview, advice on the internship experience and how to build a resume.

With this guide, you're sure to succeed. So sit back, take a deep breath and refill your coffee mug. You've got this, and we've got you.

Angela Mecca
Editor in Chief
& 2021 Career Fair Guide Editor

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STUDENTS return to the campus for the first day of school on Aug. 30, 2021. KURT LEINEMANN/THE DIAMONDBACK

THE DIAMONDBACK
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2021 UMD CAREER FAIR SCHEDULE

There are several upcoming career fairs for students in specific areas of interest or programs. Take note, each of the events below are virtual, but make sure to check each event before participating in case of any changes. For more information or to view the full events calendar, visit **careers.umd.edu.**

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
CAREERS & the disABLED Virtual Career Fair

THURSDAY, SEPT. 23
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Fall Career & Internship Fair (Engineering/STEM) - Day 1

FRIDAY, SEPT. 24
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Federal Asian Pacific American Council Student Federal Career Fair
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Fall Career & Internship Fair (STEM & All Majors) - Day 2

MONDAY, SEPT. 27
2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Computer Science Career & Internship Fair

THURSDAY, SEPT. 30
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Capital CoLab Digital Tech Credential Career Fair

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 20
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Language Career & Internship Fair

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
School of Public Health Career Expo

FRIDAY, NOV. 19
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
CAREERS & the disABLED Virtual Career Fair

STUDENTS discuss internships and job opportunities at the university's career fair. FILE PHOTO/THE DIAMONDBACK

THE FALL Career & Internship Fair 2015 FILE PHOTO/THE DIAMONDBACK

HOW TO BUILD A RESUME

Making sure your resume stands out could be the difference between getting hired or not. Here's how you can create one that doesn't get passed up by recruiters.

Make sure that your name stands out and is either in bold or big text. Don't be afraid of using color on the document as well, but don't go too crazy.

Your Name

(Contact information with links to social media accounts or LinkedIn profile)

Links to online profiles or portfolios can help direct recruiters to your work and view more information that goes beyond your resume.

Most recent job

Position
Dates worked

Put a short explanation of the position here.
Don't use narrative language.
Avoid saying "I, me or my," but be descriptive!

Past job experience

Position
Dates worked

Put a short explanation of the position here.

Education

School — Degree
Major or field of study
Expected graduation date

Now that you're in college, you should start replacing high school experiences. Always go with the most recent information.

Extracurricular activities

List out three to five activities that show off your involvement in your school or community.

Skills

List your best skills to show employers what you'd bring to the table if offered a job.

Recognition/Achievements

List any pertinent awards that you've been given to show recruiters that others recognize your skills as well.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS FOR NAILING AN INTERVIEW

How to keep calm, impress recruiters and score that dream job

Getting a job can be scary. Getting an interview can be scarier.

But at the end of the day, you are your own worst critic. Even if an interview goes poorly, it's never half as bad as you think it is — and even if it is, the next one can only be better.

With interviews, it's about trying to stay calm and collected. So, here are some tips for the next time you put on that blazer and try your very best to score that dream job.

Do: Dress professionally
Don't: Wear sweatpants

You should definitely make sure to dress business-like for an interview with a future employer. Pre-pandemic, this might have been a no-brainer for people, but after more than a year of sweatpants and pajama tops, some of us need a reminder that for interviews — yes, even the ones on Zoom — you should dress nicely.

If you can, wear something that makes you stand out to employers so they have a way to remember you. They'll most likely be talking to several candidates in a manner of hours, so wearing a colored headband or a toned-down yet patterned tie will help people identify you when they discuss your interview later on with other staff members.

Do: Initiate the handshake
Don't: Wait for the employer to greet you

Going into an interview with a plan of how you're going to introduce yourself avoids the awkwardness of waiting for the employer to acknowledge you. If the interview is in person, that means initiating the handshake — or opting for the COVID-19 friendly version of bumping elbows.

Do: Ask questions
Don't: Talk too fast

Showing interest in the job and the company can help make the case of why a recruiter should hire you. That interest can often be established by asking questions. Ask what the day-to-day is like in the job and what the daily responsibilities entail.

Make sure not to speak too fast and to use professional language — you shouldn't be speaking to a future employer the way you speak to your best friend. You want to impress the recruiter without trying too hard, so be conversational, ask questions and do your best to remain at ease.

Do: Be personable
Don't: Reiterate your resume

An interview is the place where employers get to see beyond your resume and cover letter, so this is really where you can allow yourself to shine. Don't just discuss your prior education or experience, as that's all information they probably already know from reading your documents.

Tell the recruiter a story about your experience or explain to them in a personal manner why you want the position. It's okay to admit if you're nervous, but showing the employer that you're comfortable and confident in yourself is incredibly important. If you show them you believe you're a great fit for the job, they will too.

Do: Be yourself

It sounds cliche, but it's all you can do. If an employer doesn't like you, it's not anything to take personally. There are a ton of jobs out there, and tons of candidates — and with this comes rejection. We all go through it, and while it's not fun, it's just another stepping stone closer to finding the right fit for you.

WHY YOU SHOULD LAND AN INTERNSHIP AND HOW TO DO IT

Getting an internship can be your golden ticket to getting a job

HORNBAKE LIBRARY is home to the University Career Center, which provides career resources for students. ERIC HARKLEROAD/THE DIAMONDBACK

For many, the first step to getting a job is getting an internship. Don't turn the page just yet, most internship opportunities aren't the stereotypical coffee-getting, frantic note-taking positions you see on TV.

Internships are an incredible pre-career experience where you get to learn and work in a field that hopefully aligns with your interests. Think of it as a sort of trial run before you get a job — you get to see what a day in the life of a certain field entails, and you get to practice living it.

But internships aren't a walk in the park. They can be competitive and time consuming, and there's a few things you should know about them before you send out your resume.

What you can get out of an internship

At its best, an internship will give you real-life experience in a field of your choosing. Hopefully, you'll be doing work that you enjoy, and learning the ins and outs of the job that will one day become your career.

Coming out of an internship, you'll most likely have something to show future employees besides a line on your resume. For me, it'll hopefully be a published story, but for others it could be a project they worked on for a tech company, a policy memo they helped draft and debate or a set of data they collected and analyzed, among others. What you get out of an internship isn't just an experience, but often a tangible example of your capabilities and proof of what you could bring to a future job.

And with an internship also comes connections. As any future employer will tell you, in many fields, what you do is all about who you know. Networking is a major part of the job hunting process, and interning somewhere where you make a good impression may just be your golden ticket to getting in the good graces of the people in your future field.

How to find an internship

Students at this university can access multiple resources to find internship opportunities. Most academic departments have an internship or job coordinator, and this university's online career portal, Careers4Terps, has career advisers as well.

The portal also has job postings, tools to help you practice interviews and ratings for some employers and industries.

Another great way to find an internship, or even just to network, is to use LinkedIn. By creating a profile, uploading your resume and making connections online, you can both market yourself as a future intern and keep an eye out for openings at companies of your choosing that you would be qualified for.

What to look for in an internship

There are several things to be wary of when deciding whether or not an internship is worth applying for.

First off, not all internships are paid. If you're looking for an experience that will both benefit you career-wise and financially, make sure to take note of whether or not an internship comes with a salary. Some internships can be full-time, so there may not be enough time in a day for you to work another job on the side.

Going off of that, make sure you know exactly how many hours are expected before you apply. If you're applying for a summer internship, you might be able to swing that 40-hours-a-week opportunity, but if you're looking at an internship for the school year while you're still a full-time student, make sure the hours you sign on to are manageable for your schedule.

What to do once you have an internship

After sending your resume to every hiring manager imaginable, you shouldn't be doing anything but celebrating after getting an internship. But even once you've got the internship in the bag, there are still a few things you can do.

For starters, make sure you are putting in your utmost effort every day of the job. Remember, you'll most likely be asking people at the internship program for recommendations for future jobs down the line, so a good work ethic and rapport with coworkers is key.

Work hard, but also remember it's expected that you're still learning. You're not a full-time employee yet, so it's understandable if you don't know what you're doing all the time. Ask questions, take the time to learn and be patient with yourself.

And at the end of the internship, make sure to send a thank you note to your employer to show your gratitude for the opportunity. This personal touch will help staff to remember you, and just like you want to start the experience off on the right foot, you want to end it on the right one as well.