The Princeternship program began in 2008 and offers current students a way to explore potential careers by visiting alumni in the workplace to get an “inside look” at the work world, experience a “day in the life” of a particular profession, and develop a network of contacts.

Over the last few years, this program has grown significantly and now includes opportunities in various geographic regions, industries, and fields. We look forward to expanding both the number of alumni hosts and the number of student participants, with a goal of offering Princeternship experiences across a wide range of industries for every interested student.

Student-alumni engagement is such an important part of the career exploration process. If you are an alumnus/a, I invite you to consider hosting a student for a Princeternship at your organization to expose them to your profession or industry. If you are a current student, I invite you to consider applying for a Princeternship to expand your knowledge of career options and workplace culture, as well as to begin building an invaluable network of alumni contacts.

As you read through this brochure, please take note of the positive feedback received from alumni, excerpts from the students’ blogs, and the photos of smiling alumni hosts and their Princeterns—all evidence of the ongoing benefit of this externship program and this outstanding partnership with alumni.

Sincerely,

Beverly Hamilton-Chandler
Director, Office of Career Services
through the lens of dedicated alumni
“It was absolutely incredible to meet individuals like Secretary Duncan... and to witness the coming together of so many different individuals who are all concerned about the education of children in this country...”

Angela Rodriguez ’11 with Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
unique benefits

alumni

- Share your insights and experiences to educate students about your profession, career path, and/or your organization.
- Offer the student(s) a learning experience via exposure to a variety of professional activities at your workplace.
- Arrange to provide shadowing, informational discussions, interviews with colleagues, tours of the organization, and/or other activities for students.
- Connect with students who could be potential summer interns and future employees.
- Gain additional visibility for your organization on-campus in conjunction with program promotion and the student blogs published on the Career Services website.

students

- Explore a potential career field by getting an “inside look” at the jobs of alumni.
- Experience a “day in the life” of a particular profession with an alum as your host and guide.
- Participate in learning activities that contribute to your career exploration and your understanding of various occupations and workplace cultures.
- Connect with alumni who can provide valuable career advice.
- Learn about the career path of your host to understand how careers evolve and change over time.
- Gain exposure for your career exploration efforts by publishing a blog about your Princeternship experience on the Career Services website.
AN INVITATION...

“The fit was excellent. The students were interested and interesting, asked good questions, and seemed to enjoy their time (here).”

Maura O’Sullivan ’13 and her host Leslie Margolis ’82 of the Maryland Disability Law Center
When you remember your days at Princeton, was there someone who had a significant impact on your early career decisions? Someone who offered advice, shared their insights, or advocated for you? Someone who helped shape your career direction?

The Office of Career Services invites Princeton alumni to host current students at their workplace for a one-to-three day Princeternship experience. Volunteering your time to give current students a “day in the life” perspective of your profession will have a lasting impact on their career development.

Please help us reach our goal of doubling the number of Princeternships offered and increasing the variety of industries represented.

Since 2008,

182 students have participated in the program
79 alumni have hosted Princeternship students
28 industries were represented/featured in the program
Meicen Sun ’12 standing among beehives at Sweet Beginnings, LLC (Princeton Project 55)

“I am very grateful for this invaluable opportunity to have met such amazing people working for an admirable cause.”
Ready to observe your prospective field first-hand? Here’s your chance! Apply for a Princeternship, a one-to-three day opportunity to shadow an alumnus/a and gain a “day in the life” glimpse into his or her industry or profession. Without the long-term commitment of an internship, you can explore a career, connect with alumni, and get a taste of life in the workplace.

What are you doing over break?

Visit TigerTracks to search and apply for Princeternship Opportunities.

Apply in November for Reading Period and Intercession Princeternships.
Apply in February for Spring Break Princeternships.
The Office of Career Services offers participants the option to chronicle their experiences by writing a blog/journal (and sharing photos) for our website. As you read their blogs on the website, you will find information about the types of learning activities involved in the Princeternship program, the alumni hosts and their organizations, as well as the students’ observations and impressions of the profession, the field, and the workplace culture. We hope other Princeton students will enjoy learning more about the variety of career fields represented in the blogs and will consider applying for their own Princeternship opportunity in the future.

We have provided excerpts from five of the over 60 blogs written by students this past year.

www.princeton.edu/career
...my host, Mr. George McNeely ’83, was down to earth, engaging, and incredibly likeable! In a short amount of time, he explained to me how Christie’s worked and what Business Development does. He really loves his job and has a true passion for the art auction house. His office walls are covered in colorful posters, including an image from an art exam that I took last week. I was given a project to research, the Chinese Art Market, the subject of an upcoming panel discussion that Mr. McNeely would be participating in. I was also told that I will be helping his assistant, Ashleigh, and the other Administrative Assistants during my short time. Organizational skills and use of Excel were imperative in this role.

I loved my time at Christie’s and wish that I could have stayed longer. Everyone was friendly, welcoming, smart, and deeply passionate about the work they were doing. I briefly experienced that in this field, no day is the same, so getting bored is never an issue. I love performing different tasks, always expect the unexpected, and enjoy adapting to new environments, so this Princeternship was perfect for someone like me.
Richard Gadsden ’13,
Pace University Law School

...After a full morning at the courthouse, my host, Ms. Elizabeth Corwin ’89, took us over to Pace Law School for lunch and a meeting with a student studying international law. She explained to us that, while students may get a certificate in a certain type of law, this doesn’t limit them to practicing that type. We ended the day sitting in on a class, Criminal Procedure Adjudication. The day we visited, the class was discussing the different ways of screening the decision to charge, comparing preliminary hearings to grand juries. At some points, the professor lectured, but she spent a lot of the class time posing questions to the students and guiding them to the answers, rather than telling them. Students were all actively involved in the learning process.

Overall, I was extremely satisfied with this Princeternship. I got to experience a bit of what it’s like to be a law student and also see some lawyers in action. I was only vaguely thinking about law school as an option before, but this experience has made me want to consider it more seriously. I learned so much in these three days, and I would recommend the program to anyone thinking about law.
Anna Simpson ’14, SRI International

I met my host, Dr. Dennis Matthies *70 *74, at Frist Campus Center for a short drive down Washington Road to SRI International (formerly Sarnoff Corporation). As we entered the building, he told Josh Chen ’14 (the other Princetern) and me about the rich history of the laboratories. They were formerly part of RCA Corporation and the location of innovations such as the color television, liquid crystal displays, high-definition television, and many others.

We went from the past to the present as we went through an iris scanner that identifies employees as they walk through it and over to Dr. Matthies’ office, where he told us about his current responsibilities in the company.

...The most valuable part of the day for me was hearing about Dr. Matthies’ experience, the range of his projects, and his perspective on defense contracting. I would enthusiastically recommend the Princeternship program to anyone curious about a career path or industry. As Dr. Matthies pointed out, Princeton alumni are very eager to share their expertise and experiences with current students!
Christian Smutherman '14,  
U.S. Department of Education

...Everything moved very quickly that day. The air of excitement surrounding the President’s speech was virtually tangible! **Mr. Massie Ritsch ’98**, my host during the Princeternship, brought me to an array of top government meetings within his department. I was given the wonderful opportunity to sit in on a confidential debriefing between top White House officials and the Department of Education’s political appointees. I was then whisked away to another important meeting where the department discussed an upcoming international summit for education. I was able to listen as the Department’s leaders talked to representatives from all over the world about this upcoming event.

...I’ve learned so much about the government and my perspectives have definitely changed. As a freshman, this has helped me to see that I want to continue learning about policy and education reform. This experience has reinforced my desire to further change in my own community and provide resources for the students who are fighting for a better education. If you’re a freshman interested in government, policy, or just education in general, go for this opportunity!
Brandon Chan ’12, Princeton Musculoskeletal Institute

The thought of going to medical school is an intimidating one, one which we have to spend time to think about and explore through various activities, shadowing experiences, and talks with others. This Princeternship allowed me and my fellow Princetern, Kanwal Matharu ’13, to witness a professional who truly enjoyed every minute of his job. My host, Dr. Richard Levandowski ’70, has a love of medicine and his patients’ love for him was evident in every appointment. This inspired us to fully commit to medical school and tackle all of the challenges ahead with this type of specialization as a possible goal.

We would enthusiastically recommend this Princeternship because of the environment Dr. Levandowski creates with his energy. He engaged us in various ways, whether it be asking us questions or sharing anecdotes, or giving us stethoscopes to give us a way to contribute to patient care in a small way. Dr. Levandowski and his staff made us feel welcome at every step, and it was a great experience. Although writing simple prescriptions and taking heart rates was fun, the true value of this Princeternship was spending time with Dr. Levandowski and his caring staff.
“The students were outstanding! They were thoughtful in their questions and appreciative of the time and effort we spent with them. A+”
...about Princeterns in the workplace

“The tasks we gave our Princetern had a good balance and exposed her to many important aspects of our organization’s work. She left with new knowledge and new perspectives.”

“The students came prepared with questions, listened carefully to everyone they met with, made a great impression on my colleagues, and represented Princeton well.”

“I offered my guidance on next steps that seemed appropriate for each student in their career exploration. In the end, both students applied for our summer internship program and were accepted!”

“Everyone was very impressed with the Princetern, and I received very positive feedback from my colleagues. I very much enjoyed my interactions with the student (and being a host)!”

“Our Princetern was very professional and mature. She exhibited independence in carrying out the tasks given to her. She even followed up on her own in contacting others I suggested could be a resource for her in the future for her JP or senior thesis.”
Connections are so important! This adage is so true, especially in today’s challenging economy. The connections students make with alumni are such an important part of the career exploration process. In addition to the Princeternship program, we invite Princeton alumni to consider volunteering for some of the other student-alumni engagement programs coordinated by the Office of Career Services. Whether returning to campus to speak to students or offering your insights and advice online, you can make a significant difference!

Alumni and students may find more information about these programs by visiting:

www.princeton.edu/career
Now, more than ever, we appreciate the continued support of alumni who, through their dedication and involvement with their alma mater, are making a difference by sharing their insights and advice for current students as they navigate through the career exploration process.

The Alumni Careers Network (ACN)
An online database of alumni volunteers who have offered to share career advice with students.

Princeton-in-Washington (PIW)
Alumni networking programs and guest speakers for students interning in our nation’s capital during the summer.

IMAGINE Speaker Series
Alumni share their career journey and all the unexpected, unimagined opportunities and challenges along the way.

Career Panels & Guest Speakers
Alumni share information about their professional experience and industries.

Industry Expert Program
Alumni offer professional development seminars on topics not offered through academic curricula.

Alumni Connections & Summer Networking Receptions
Students and alumni meet face-to-face at these events offered in the summer and fall.

In 2010-2011, 4,800 alumni volunteers were registered in the online Alumni Careers Network database. 600 students met alumni in Washington, D.C. via the Princeton-in-Washington program. 198 alumni were guest speakers and panelists at Career Services’ events.
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