Secrets to Scoring an Intel Internship

In 2006, more than 10,000 students will apply for internships with Intel. Only 15 percent of those will actually receive positions, getting the opportunity to gain valuable work experience that may serve as a springboard to a fabulous future career.

Of the 1,500 or so intern spots available, 55 percent are designated as undergraduate positions, 45 percent are at the graduate level, and 10 percent are for students working on doctorate degrees. Interns work in a wide variety of technical and research positions throughout multiple departments across Intel, and leverage all the engineering focus disciplines (industrial, chemical, materials, etc.); for more details, visit Intel Engineering Careers.

Of the students hired to intern and who perform well in their assignments, the majority will return later as full-time employees. "Our goal is to hire 60 percent of all new hires through our Recent College Grad Program," says Beth Redfield, U.S. intern program manager for Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. "Of that, at least 50 percent have been previous interns here at Intel."

So how does one land one of the highly coveted intern positions?

It is a highly competitive process requiring applicants to stand out both in academic performance and in their potential to contribute to a business environment. Most internships are filled through an open application process; a few higher level positions are filled from a pool of candidates recommended by university faculty with strong ties to Intel.

See the checklist and timeframes below for tips and additional information.

Checklist on scoring an internship
❒ **Update your resume.** Include work availability and graduation dates, GPA, applicable coursework (completed and planned), technical expertise/research conducted, group affiliations, and volunteer work.
❒ **Visit the Intel Jobs Web site** at **www.intel.com/jobs**.
❒ **Review details on internships and Intel site locations**
❒ **Submit your resume** through the Intel Jobs Web site.
o Follow the online prompts to *Create/Update Resume* or View *Job Posting/Apply for Job*.   o Note: Because of the volume of applications, it is impossible for Intel to respond to all applicants. Initial contact with potential interns will take place via email or phone interviews during the interview timeframes listed below.

❒ **Attend ANY and ALL planned events involving Intel on campus**, including career fairs, open houses, lectures, group visits, etc., and make contact there with any and all Intel reps, expressing your interest in an internship. (Be sure to have your resume in hand.)
   o Check out *Campus Events* links (box at right) for dates when Intel will be on-campus in the U.S. and Israel.
   o While Intel recruiters take the lead in forwarding your resume across multiple Intel departments where you may best fit, it won't hurt to send

your resume to any other Intel managers or employees you meet. With so many departments and 91,000 employees, Intel recruiters may not be aware of all departmental opportunities available to students.

☐ **Network with EVERYONE** regarding your interest in Intel (professors, advisors, TAs, peers, classmates, alumni, Intel recruiters, current Intel employees, etc.); they may know someone at Intel who can help connect you with a manager or group looking for an intern.

☐ **Follow up with any contacts you make** via email and be sure to attach your resume. (A thank-you note is a nice way to remind a contact that you're out there and still interested in an internship.)

Timeframes to apply for internships	
Internship season	**When to apply**
Spring (Jan. to May/Aug.)	Sept. 1 – Nov. 1
Summer (May/June – Aug./Sept.)	Nov. 1 – April 1
Fall (Aug./Sept. – Dec.)	Jan. 1 – May 1

How I landed my Intel internship…

Two years ago when Brigham Young University student **Josh Kvavle** set out to land an engineering internship, he used a "shotgun" approach. Kvavle says he visited a university internship coordinator on campus and made good use of the electrical engineering department's business card file. "I sent out resumes and cover letters to contacts – not just Intel, but other places too," he says. "Lots of resumes and cover letters."

And then he got lucky. "A department manager at Intel replied and expressed interest in finding me a position."

That might be the end of the story, but Kvavle made sure the manager didn't forget him; he emailed him every week for a month or two just to keep his name top-of-mind. The student wasn't obnoxious, just politely persistent. His efforts paid off. The manager asked around and one of the engineers in his group volunteered to take Kvavle on, creating an intern slot and a research project especially for him. Kvavle spent the summer in Arizona, analyzing how to improve the process and equipment used for spotting defects on silicon wafers at the Ocotillo facility. "I worked hard," he says, "and got along well with other people."

The experience was so positive for all involved that the group invited him back as an intern this past summer. (Kvavle spent the summer of 2004 conducting research related to his Bachelor's degree at BYU.) In his 2005 summer internship, Kvavle performed a variety of tasks to support the engineers in his group, including creating a Web application for recording frequently-charted data on wafer quality more easily, more efficiently, and more accurately.

Kvavle is now working on his Master's degree in electrical engineering. He hopes to return to Intel again after his graduate work is completed as a full-time employee.

Puja Kumar was still a high school student when she became an Intel intern. After taking an electronic engineering class her sophomore year at Hamilton High School in Chandler, Arizona, her teacher referred her to a math, science, and technology summer program sponsored by Intel. Kumar was one of three participating students chosen for high school internships the following summer at Intel's Chandler site. That year, Kumar assisted a group of computer programmers with the encryption and decryption of high-definition media files as they worked to incorporate safeguards against media piracy.

Puja Kumar, Intel intern, University of Arizona

While there, Kumar "networked" with her Intel contacts, and was asked back as an intern for four consecutive summers. She spent two more years with her initial group, then moved on to more interesting programming projects in her fourth and fifth summers, assisting in the creation of a tool to automate the tracking and data analysis of microchip quality. This past summer, the student even got to travel to Costa Rica to work with developers engaged in a similar project.

Now a senior at the University of Arizona, Puja plans to attend graduate school after receiving her B.S. in computer engineering.

"The best advice I can give to someone pursuing an internship is to network," says Kumar. "It's the best way to find out about what opportunities are out there, and to 'advertise' your qualifications. Also, there are many school organizations with professional ties, such as the Society of Women Engineers, that sponsor events where students can meet face to face with representatives of industry, so stay active in clubs and events."