

INTERNSHIP

landing the internship getting the job

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What are your summer plans? Hanging out poolside with a nice cold one in hand and buds in ears won't cut it anymore. Snagging an internship will increase your chances of landing a good post-graduate job.

"When you've been with a company for an internship they already know if you can do the job," Jewlie Williams, assistant internship coordinator for Anthropologie, says. "They want to see you succeed and they feel as though they're taking less of a risk by hiring you because they know you."

Chandra Turner, executive editor of Parents magazine and founder and president of online internship encyclopedia Ed2010, encourages students to get an early jump on internships in order to land their final dream job.

"It's really hard to go from no internships to a good internship that's going to land you that job," Turner says. Turner suggests getting involved in your campus and working your way from regional internships to bigger metropolis internships and on up from there. Didn't start early enough? Don't worry, we've compiled a guide to landing the perfect stepping stone and bridging it into your dream job.

Those pictures from last weekend where your bra is hanging out and dude lost his shirt? Yeah, don't post that.

"I have looked up potential interns on Facebook to find pictures of debauchery and didn't see the candidate as favorable," Turner says. "Your reputation online should be what you'd present live in a job interview."

Moral of the story: keep your morals straight, online and off.

Stop crunching the numbers, no one cares anyway.

Hey you, with the calculator and transcript, give your punchy little fingers a break. Turner advises students to leave their GPA off of their resume because, frankly, no one cares.

"I'm not hiring you based on your grades," Turner says. "I care a lot more about your experiences and where you've worked and what publications you've been on the staff of."

Being a part of a student organization will take you much farther than that one quiz you forgot to take ever could. Engaging in campus activities will boost your resume and help you connect and network with people who share the same interests.

It's not all about you

We know you're awesome and all, but companies want to hear about how they're awesome, too. Instead of focusing your cover letter solely on yourself, throw in some references to the company's recent work or awards they've received. They'll eat that right up. Use your cover letter as space to explain your knowledge of the company and what you could do for them.

"I can read your resume to see all the things you did," Turner says. "I need to understand why you would be a good fit and how you really get my [company]."

Williams agrees, adding that a passion and love for the brand is a necessity.

"If you don't know our customer and what we're all about, if it doesn't seep out of you or embody you, then you're not cut out for our company."

Date your boss

"So you're hanging out with a new guy and you find yourself kind of saying the same stories about your childhood or about whatever," Turner says.

"[Interviewing is] the same kind of thing. You have to have the same kind of good stories that you know are going to get you good responses when you go into an interview."

So maybe not in the Grey's Anatomy sense, but being able to relate to the interviewer on a personal level and showing that you're prepared will make you stand out. Turner recommends having a few good anecdotes on hand to share. Bonus if they somehow relate back to the company.

Disclaimer: Ethos does not advocate dating your boss, unless he is McSteamy. mmmmMcSteamy.

Don't hesitate to say hi

The connections you make at internships can help you eventually land the perfect job.

"I made the most important connections of my life [while interning]," Williams says. "It also introduced me to the stylist I now freelance under."

Stay in contact with overseers and colleagues by sending bimonthly updates about the new work you've done, but try to avoid asking for anything, Turner says.

"Check in just like you would any other close contact," Turner says. "And stay in contact with your colleagues too and the other interns you worked with."