Careers and Corporate Engagement

Partnering with students and employers to build connections for career success
message from the dean

According to a 2015 study from CareerBuilder, businesses are hiring more employees in a variety of emerging fields, such as cloud, mobile and search technologies; cybersecurity; and managing and interpreting large collections of data. I am delighted to say that we, at the College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST), are ahead of the game in preparing our students to fill those roles.

Our students are poised for success. Our curriculum stresses teamwork and strong communication skills as students tackle real-world problems. The internship requirement builds on this, providing students with valuable hands-on experience before graduation. IST students learn the soft skills required in today’s collaborative work environment that complement their technical expertise, positioning them to hit the ground running as interns or full-time hires.

IST’s Office of Career Solutions and Corporate Engagement is here to help you every step of the way, from job postings, to company meet and greets, to interview logistics. They are ready to help you find the perfect student (or students) to meet your organization’s needs.

I welcome your input on how we can best guide our students in becoming innovative leaders and dependable teammates and look forward to future partnerships.

Andrew Sears, dean
College of Information Sciences and Technology
In today’s challenging job market, students benefit from every advantage. The College of IST recognizes the extraordinary value of professional development and engaged scholarship, which is why all IST graduates must complete a minimum of one internship for credit.

Almost 75 percent of our graduating students report completing multiple internships throughout their four years in IST. This experience provides them with hands-on skills, insight, and experience as they are hired into full-time positions.

The Office of Career Solutions and Corporate Engagement continuously seeks to engage new companies to provide internship opportunities for all IST undergraduate students at University Park, other Penn State campuses, and those enrolled at World Campus.

students advantages

Internship Requirements

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Professional Development and Leadership Programs

One of the most important responsibilities of the Office of Career Solutions and Corporate Engagement is to assist students in exploring their career goals and professional development opportunities. Our team works to provide professional development opportunities through office-tied workshops and in collaboration with employers.

We also provide a holistic view of leadership through our IST Diplomat Leadership Academy. This course allows students to explore their personal leadership styles and helps them to become more effective leaders. These students then serve as Diplomats, IST’s student ambassadors.

All About Employers

A sample of Companies that Hire our Students:

- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Capital One
- Deloitte
- EY
- GE
- General Motors
- IBM
- JP Morgan
- KPMG
- Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Lockheed Martin
- Lowe’s
- Merck & Co.
- Microsoft Corporation
- PwC
- Textron
- The Boeing Company
- Universal Health Services
- UPMC
- Weebly

What Companies Are Saying About our Students:

"Creative problem solvers with phenomenal communication skills."
Recruiter from PwC

"Accustomed to working in teams from day one."
Recruiter from KPMG

"Technically sound, personable, with leadership qualities. They understand the ‘big picture.’"
Recruiter from Air Products

"Versatile. Changes in the technical landscape don’t faze these students because their education from IST prepares them for anything that comes their way."
Recruiter from Boeing

"Not just pupils who know their coursework: innovative, forward-thinkers who display a high level of competence and professionalism."
Recruiter from FedEx Services

College of Information Sciences and Technology
Managing Information, Powering Intelligence
**IST by the numbers**

Since IST’s inception, our student success statistics have been overwhelmingly positive.

- **74%** Reported having a full-time position at graduation (including students continuing on to graduate programs)
- **44%** of students hired by IST Corporate Associates*
- **$64,864** Average reported salary
- **$5,933** Average reported signing bonus
- **40%** of students who were hired received a signing bonus
- **43%** of hired students reported that their full-time position followed an internship with that same company
- **308** Number of University Park undergraduate students completing internships for credit
- **106** Number of World Campus students completing internships for credit
- **$15.84** Average reported salary for paid interns

*Interested in elevating your engagement with the College of IST and its students? Ask us about our IST Corporate Associates Program.

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**My internship has allowed me to apply the knowledge I learned in the classroom to what I am working on. I learned a lot about myself and how I work in business environments and with teams.**

* - Alexander Chlysta, IST ’16
  Internship at Lowe’s Company, Inc, Mooresville, NC

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**I have learned so much during my internship, and it has given me a new perspective on what I would like to do in my professional career. On a daily basis, I was exposed to many different departments and how they operate. It was helpful in terms of where I see myself in the future.**

* - Devin McGinn, IST ’17
  Internship at the Hershey Company, Hershey, PA

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**The only way to learn what you want to do is by doing it. Landing multiple internships gave me the opportunity to try out different roles in different companies. This not only let me discover what career I wanted, but gave me a better idea of the working environment I preferred.**

* - Krista Krebs, IST ’15, Internships at Boeing and DICK’S Sporting Goods

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Figures were compiled from 2014-2015 post-graduation survey.