

# ALTERNATIVE SUMMER PLANS

Completing a summer internship is not the only way to build the experience and skills employers are seeking. The following ideas are great alternatives for a productive summer. Schedule an appointment with your Career Consultant on Handshake to discuss how to pursue any of the suggestions below.

## ACADEMIC

### COURSEWORK

Whether it's through CMU or another institution, get ahead in your degree plan or explore new topics by completing summer coursework.

### PROFESSOR RESEARCH

Network with faculty whose research interests you. Faculty often need assistance with data analysis, lab work, and more.

### STUDY ABROAD

From exchange programs to volunteer opportunities, there are a variety of ways to learn abroad. [Click here](#) to learn more. If traveling is not an option, learn a foreign language!

## CAREER

### UPWORK FREELANCING

Create a profile on [Upwork.com](#) to complete short-term, paid projects for clients. This is a great way to test-drive your interests and gain experience.

### PARKER DEWEY MICRO-INTERNSHIPS

Often, students and employers may not have time to engage in a full-length internship. Micro-internships through [Parker Dewey](#) are a great way to gain skills in a fraction of the time.

### FORAGE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

Learn skills that employers want before they hire you by completing free programs on [Forage.com](#).

### LINKEDIN LEARNING SKILL CERTIFICATES

Earn skill certificates on any topic ranging from web design to Python to project management at [LinkedIn Learning](#), which you can access for free using your Andrew ID.

### INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT

Why wait? Use research methodology to investigate one of your own questions about the world, your field of study, etc. [Click here](#) to review CMU's research funding options.

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Carnegie  
Mellon  
University  
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Professional  
Development  
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# PERSONAL

## VOLUNTEERISM

Gain skills while helping your community! Choose an organization whose mission motivates you, and focus on how to develop skills that boost your resume and future career.

## TUTORING

Are you a math whiz or a grammar guru? Share your expertise with middle/high school students who may have fallen behind. Tutors make good money, and [tutoring](#) demonstrates mastery of a subject area to employers.

## PART-TIME JOBS

Turn your spare time into extra money that can be used to help pay for expenses next semester. Your Career Consultant can help you identify transferable skills that will impress future employers.

## PERSONAL PROJECT

The summer is an excellent time to explore and build upon your personal interests, whether that's learning a new instrument, writing a short story, showcasing your culinary skills, building an app, or even starting a small business!

# PROFESSIONAL

## LINKEDIN PROFILE

Over 95% of recruiters use LinkedIn, so take the time to create a professional online presence. Is your profile complete? Write a personal branding statement, upload a photo, and add rich media to your experience/project sections.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Clean up your social media accounts by checking your privacy settings, and taking pride in the voice you're presenting. If it's public, recruiters will see it!

## WEB PORTFOLIO

Having a web portfolio can help you stand out to employers. Creating a simple website using a tool like Wix or WordPress is a polished way to share your projects and expertise with others. Adding a blog can showcase your writing skills.

## NETWORKING & RESEARCH

Cultivate your professional network using CMU's [Community](#), Career Shift and LinkedIn to reach out to alumni, former colleagues, and professionals working in your target industries. Request informational interviews, and build a 'Top 10' list of companies that interest you.

## CPDC APPOINTMENT

Your Career Consultant is available for appointments all summer! Use this time to explore career paths, develop a job search strategy, and prepare for the busy Fall recruiting season.

## YOUR APPLICATION MATERIAL UPDATES

Upload your resume to VMock for instant, detailed feedback, and also email your resume/cover letter to your Career Consultant for review.

