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.
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.