



Personal Statement Guidelines

The personal statement is an important part of the LINK application. The statement is your opportunity to thoughtfully express what you hope to gain from the internship experience and to pull all of your application materials together. Pay close attention to detail and remember to proofread all of your application materials.

The guidelines below are provided to assist you in preparing your statement. Consider how the internship will help you with the following:

- Explore career options and understand possible career pathways; Develop knowledge specific to a career or work setting
- Acquire work specific skills related to communication, teamwork, time management, interpersonal skills, and goal setting.
- Increase cross-cultural understanding, social awareness and the ability to work in diverse environments
- Develop academic skills, e.g. analysis, synthesis, building conceptual models
- Apply academic learning and grow intellectually

After reading your personal statement the selection committee members should have a clear understanding of why you want to pursue this particular internship and how it will contribute to your overall career exploration.

Need additional help?

CareerLAB offers resources and tips on preparing internship applications. Bring your application, personal statement and resume in for a review. Come to the general CareerLAB walk in hours from 1:30-3:30pm Monday through Friday at 167 Angell Street, 1st floor or make an appointment online through the **Brown Student Job and Internship Board**. Simply **login to your account** and go to your calendar to search for advisor availability.

LINK Essay Samples

Sample 1:

Working as a venture capital intern at JUMP Investors this summer will introduce me the nebulous, exciting world of venture capital. For the past two summers, I have stayed in Providence, working and doing research in a psychology laboratory. Although I deeply value the skillset I have gained from my research the most important thing I learned was that I *did not* want to continue working in academia. I want to step outside of the lab and try to make an impact in the real world.

Fortunately, my background has equipped me with the problem-solving competence to branch out into other sectors. I would like to enter the business field, in particular, because I believe the human-centric, analytical perspective I have gained from my background in psychology is a useful asset to the acquisition, maintenance, growth of new companies. In the future, I hope to apply insights from behavioral science and economics to identify, incubate, and secure funding for ventures that use technological platforms for sustainability and social good.

The company is a small, LA-based firm that specializes in science and technology investments. At JUMP, my role will primarily involve market research: interns will learn how to incubate startups. We will become familiar with all stages of the venture process, which includes marketing, social media outreach and strategy, web design, and PR. The position is unique in that interns can learn about all of these roles through *hands-on exposure*, since JUMP is such a small company. Additionally, interns can sit in on startup pitches, investment meetings, and participate in weekly business development workshops. All of these opportunities will equip me to the business intangibles that I could not otherwise receive in an academic setting.

I will also develop my competence in time management, teamwork, and goal setting, as the interns will be working in small teams to compete projects throughout the summer. We come from universities across the country, thereby introducing diverse backgrounds and perspectives that will surely be valuable to project implementation and completion. I also hope the CEO's "open-door" policy for interns will improve my communication and presentation proficiency, through frequent interactions with and direct mentorship from a seasoned industry professional.

The position has a research-heavy focus, so, in addition to sharpening my data analysis capabilities, I will learn about financial modeling and deal flow. Interns also dabble in app development and web infrastructure--I have always wanted to learn about both, but could never muster up the courage to take a CS course at Brown.

A financial office setting is drastically different from that of a lab, but I wish to use this change as an impetus to start taking more intellectual risks. I hope to gain the confidence to give my input and share my ideas about various startups and ventures throughout the summer. What struck me most about the position was that interns are encouraged to do additional research and present their independent projects to the CEO anytime during the summer, opening the door to candid, one-on-one opportunities to get concrete feedback from an investment pioneer. Many programs do not give interns such a great deal of freedom and opportunity for independent professional development. My goal for the summer is to find and incubate an independent venture that promotes health, sustainability, or social good.

On a practical level, I am a low-income student getting a degree in the humanities and

social sciences: an unpaid internship would likely put an undue financial burden on my family. The 50-hour work week would also make it difficult to work to offset living expenses. Although I was initially hesitant to apply to JUMP for these reasons, I knew that an opportunity like it was rare and that the potential for accelerated growth as both a business professional and an individual far outweighed the costs.

Finally, the position means so much to me because it has been so difficult to find positions in the business and finance fields due to my academic background. JUMP took a chance on me in the same way that Brown did years ago, which helped shaped the person I am today. I hope that by the end of the summer, I get to say the same about JUMP.

Sample 2:

I applied to intern at the City University of New York Dominican Studies Institute as a junior researcher to acquire the necessary skills to conduct critical research and empower my Dominican community. I am interested in becoming a professor and pursuing a career in academia to produce new knowledge about the Dominican diaspora in the field of Dominican Studies and Africana Studies. There is a lack of research done on the Dominican Republic and people of Dominican descent, and I want to address this dearth by contributing to the Dominican Studies Institute's study of Dominican people. I want to apply the methods I have learned at Brown and work alongside members of my Dominican community in Washington Heights to produce research that will serve my community. In the CUNY DSI intern position, I will be immersed in the scholarship of Dominicans in the archives while collaborating with Dominican scholars and activists.

Working at CUNY as a junior intern, I will gain valuable research experience that will develop my academic skills and prepare me for graduate study. Through the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, I have been working on an oral history project to explore Afro-Dominican women's racial consciousness. Although I am working on an independent research project, I have not had the opportunity to work in a team as a junior researcher under the supervision of a director. This position requires that I help carry out a study that is currently being done at the Dominican Studies Institute as part of a group or individually. I believe that learning how to carry out research as part of a group will strengthen my skills as I learn methods and research strategies from other junior interns and from the director, a professor of Sociology at CUNY. It also means that I will be communicating and coordinating with other interns to work towards a common research goal. Gaining this valuable experience and knowledge will truly let me understand what it takes to do archival and ethnographic research.

CUNY DSI will also support the undertaking of my own research project by connecting me to resources and archives found in the Dominican Library. I have already built relationships with several DSI librarians and scholars who have helped me build my literature review for my Mellon project. They are invested in supporting my research endeavors and cultivating my passion for Dominican Studies scholarship. Therefore, this internship ensures that I can do both collaborative work with other interns and focus on my independent Mellon Mays oral history project regarding Afro-Dominican women.

I believe this experience can introduce me to the academic vocabulary and new knowledges necessary to do critical research about diasporic and marginalized communities. Last year, a research unit at CUNY DSI worked on a digital bilingual platform entitled "First Blacks in the Americas" that disseminated the history of African ancestry on the island. I hope to do hands on work with members of my community of Washington Heights to together produce more accessible educational platforms that will

inform and empower Dominican people.

At Brown, I have been an active member of the club Dominican Students at Brown and facilitated workshops that promoted critical reflection and dialogue on how to best mitigate systems of oppression that disenfranchise vulnerable populations. However, I want to learn how to generate this knowledge in a research setting and present it in a way that is accessible and benefits my own communities back home. I believe it is important to not only create research about my community, but also to create research for my community. This means my Dominican mother, neighbors, and other members of the community must be able to understand the work I create if it is truly meant to serve them. CUNY DSI will train me to make my scholarship and language accessible and in service to my community.

I am excited to be mentored by Dominican scholars and further explore Dominican history and ancestry. As a first-generation college student and child of Dominican immigrants, I never thought I could be a scholar and conduct research that would help my community. I did not know that these kinds of opportunities existed for students that hail from impoverished communities of color. Yet, this internship opportunity will help build my confidence and allow me to recognize that I am also capable of producing new knowledge in academia and pursuing a career in academia.

Sample 3:

I am a junior at Brown University concentrating in Physics and Philosophy. This summer I will be studying single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) genotyping and gene expression data. I will be working under the supervision of Dr. Ece Uzun at Rhode Island Hospital. From the SNP data, I will study runs of homozygosity (ROH). ROH blocks are regions of our genome where the sets of DNA inherited from our parents are the same. In a publication in 2013, Dr. Uzun showed that children with autism have higher rates of ROH compared to their unaffected siblings (Gamsiz et al., 2013). In order to understand the factors behind this finding, I will be studying a population with over 200 families in order to find the differences in gene expression levels under ROH blocks in affected subjects compared to their unaffected siblings.

Taking part in this opportunity will allow me to develop and gain many concrete skills. I will be reading scientific papers and evaluating the methods used in order to analyze the data set. I will then need to filter the data by writing and using computer algorithms. Finally, I will have to interpret the data and find clear ways to present it. I have a background in both statistical analysis and programming and this opportunity will allow me to hone these skills and apply them to a new setting. Additionally, this project will allow me to improve my scientific literacy and communication skills.

Although I study physics I have always been extremely interested in life science, as well as chemistry. I have recently started taking pre-med classes and am seriously considering applying to medical school. Last summer I gained clinical experience working in a primary care clinic. The experience was exceptionally formative since it put real families facing real healthcare issues to the abstract topics I had always been interested in. Ever since I have been looking for opportunities that combine areas of my physics education with my growing interest in the medical sciences. Dr. Uzun's research seems to bring these two faculties together in a very interesting way. This opportunity aligns directly with my post-graduation goals since I will be involved in a lab that will give me exposure to medicine, while at the same time strengthening my existing problem-solving skills.