Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the difference between a LINK and a Summer Earnings Waiver (SEW)?
A. Brown LINK is a funded award – selected students receive a stipend in the form of one lumped sum check at the beginning of the summer. The SEW waives the summer earning requirement for students on financial aid. The SEW is posted on a student’s financial aid package at the beginning of the fall term following their summer internship.

Q. How do I apply for Brown LINK/SEW? Can I apply for both?
A. Complete the LINK UFUNDS application, which must include an uploaded resume, signed supervisor form, organization and position description and personal statement. Students can apply for both awards but are only eligible to receive a LINK or LINK/SEW bundle once during their time at Brown.

Q. What is the difference between the two deadlines?
A. There is almost no difference between the two deadlines. Award amounts are the same in the both rounds and students can apply for and receive SEWs in both rounds. International internships are only funded in the first round. Of course, the earlier you can secure your funding the better!

Q. Can I submit more than one application if I’m applying for multiple internships?
A. No. You can only submit one application for one internship opportunity. If you don’t get funded in the first round you can apply for the second round with a different internship.

Q. Am I eligible to receive a Brown LINK/SEW award if I receive research funding (UTRAS, Watson Institute, or another Brown source)?
A. No.

Q. I’ve participated in CCG in NYC or the iProv programs. Can I still apply for a LINK/SEW award?
A. No. CCG in NYC and iProv are funded by the LINK program and therefore count towards your one LINK award during your time at Brown.

Q. I won’t know if I have the internship until after the deadline. Can I still apply?
A. Yes. The organization must complete the Supervisor Statement Form stating you are being considered.

Q. I’m interning outside of the United States. Can I apply for funding?
A. Yes. Students interning outside of the US must apply in the first round of funding. LINK funding cannot be used for travel to a destination on the Office of International Programs’ Travel Prohibition List

Q. Can I combine two shorter internships as long as the total equals 240 hours?
A. No. The 240 hours (the equivalent of working six weeks full-time) is beneficial in developing skills and knowledge, setting and attaining your goals, as well as building a meaningful relationship with your employer.

Q. I found a summer volunteer opportunity with an organization that requires a program fee. Am I eligible for Brown LINK/SEW funding?
A. No. These awards cannot be used to pay for program fees. The funding is limited to internship opportunities only. The donors have specified their money be used for career exploration that includes mentoring, developing key skills and furthering students’ long-term career goals.

Q. I would like to do a fee-based summer program that includes an internship component. Am I eligible?
A. No. Tuition-based programs are ineligible for Brown LINK funding. Many fee-based programs have scholarship money available or a payment plan can be arranged to make the cost easier to manage.

Q. What makes a strong application?
A. Committees look closely at your personal statement and how the internship opportunity relates to career exploration and your goals.

Q. What information is needed from the supervisor?
A. A representative from the organization must complete the Supervisor Statement acknowledging that:
   - You are being considered or have been offered the internship
   - The internship is unpaid or you will earn less than $1,000 for the entire summer
   - You will work with the employer a minimum of 240 hours (equivalent of six weeks full-time)
   - The internship is supervised
   - The internship does not require a program fee to participate

Q. Can my supervisor email/mail their letter CareerLAB?
A. No. Students must upload a completed/signed Supervisor Statement form with your application in UFUNDS.

Q. I’m having trouble getting the organization materials prepared by my supervisor. How do I proceed?
A. An alternate representative may complete the Supervisor Statement. If you are having trouble getting the materials needed from the sponsoring organization please contact Sarah.Brown1@brown.edu immediately and at least three business days prior to the deadline.