Internships

In the spring of the first year, the Association of Student Planners will have a special meeting dedicated to internships, where second year students will share their experiences and answer questions. Generally, however, it is the individual students’ responsibility to find an internship. There are no right ways or wrong ways to find internships. Below are some typical types of organizations that would offer appropriate internships, followed by common kinds of searches. International students who seek internships off-campus are highly encouraged to consult with the International Student Services of TAMU regarding the application for CPT. For more information:

http://iss.tamu.edu/Current-Students/F-1-Status/Curricular-Practical-Training#0-WhatIsCurricularPracticalTraining(CPT)%3F

Typical types of organizations:

- Cities (departments of planning, community development, economic development, housing, environmental services, emergency management, transportation, etc.)
- Councils of Government (COGs)
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Counties
- State or federal agencies (related to area of interest, like transportation, housing, economic development, environmental resources, water, coastal issues, emergency management, land use, and so on)
- Non-profit or non-governmental organizations (that advocate for something related to your area of interest)
- Private sector planning, architecture, landscape architecture firms (EDAW, Jacobs, Glatting Jackson, Lane Koenig, etc.)
- Developers or real estate firms
- Research groups (may be non-profit or university, like the Texas Transportation Institute)

Places to look:

- Website of the organization itself
- Website of a parent organization (e.g., American Planning Association, or APA Texas; but also special interest organizations like the Congress for New Urbanism, and so on)
- Job search engines (monster.com; opportunityknocks.org; etc.)
- Google searches (don’t just enter “planning”—that’ll get you nowhere. Use terms like “urban planning internships,” “sustainable urbanism internships,” “economic development internships,” “housing internships,” “transportation internships,” and so on)
- Conferences, like the state conference of the APA Texas chapter, the APA conference, the Congress for New Urbanism, other specialty conferences

Your search for an internship will be guided by the constraints that you have or the kind of internship you’re looking for. Some common paths are outlined on the following page.

Search for an “official” internship (i.e. a regular, organized, usually paying internship)

This is a good place to start if you don’t have too many constraints on where you go. Some organizations have standing internship programs that are well organized, carefully supervised, and involve planned interactions and programmatic activities with other interns. These are usually really good experiences and result in good networking opportunities for permanent jobs. Many universities have internship programs to match you with organizations both in the US and internationally. In addition, many federal agencies and special interest groups in Washington, DC offer internship programs.
Each of these sources for internships is typically quite competitive. You will often find these through job search engines and Google searches. Also, look at TAMU’s internship office to see what you might be eligible for/interested in.

**Search constrained by location** (i.e. you need to live at home, stay in B/CS, or want to spend the summer in a specific, really cool city)

Generate a list of organizations with offices in your location of choice. Visit the website of each of these organizations and look for posted internships. If there are none, you may also identify a contact person that you can e-mail or call directly to inquire about internships. You can also use existing networks to identify opportunities. If you are searching in your hometown, use your parents or parents of friends to inquire about contacts at appropriate organizations.

**Search aimed at a specific organization or group related to your emphasis area** (i.e. you really want to get involved in some cutting-edge project or initiative)

Make a list of the organizations that are doing what you want to do. Pay attention to the external links on these websites to identify other organizations that are involved in this type of work that you may have not known about. Look for posted internship opportunities on their websites, but don’t be limited by this. Contact these organizations directly by e-mail, mail, or phone, to inquire about potential opportunities. You may need to be willing to work for no pay.

Further, many types of organizations are members of state and national organizations, such as the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the American Planning Association itself. These and other similar, large organizations will often list internships and job opportunities on their websites. If you know a few organizations that you would like to work for, see what other organizations they are a member of and visit their websites to see if they list internships.