STEM2VA Student Q&A

Q: Am I eligible?
A: Undergraduate and graduate students who are residents of Virginia and are enrolled in any higher education institution are eligible to participate. All students enrolled in a 2 or 4+ year higher education institution in Virginia are eligible, regardless of where they are from. Individuals who are Winter 2021 or Spring 2022 graduates are also eligible.

Q: I'm in an online program, am I eligible to apply?
A: Yes, students in traditional in person settings, virtual/online programs are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Q: Is this a paid internship?
A: Yes, students will be paid $4,200.00 for the 8 week full-time summer internship program.

Q: What are the hours of the internship program?
A: While anticipating most internships will operate during normal business hours of 8 AM - 5 PM, for an average of 40 hours per week. Employers have the flexibility to determine the exact schedule with the participating student.

Q: When will I know if I have been selected to participate in the internship?
A: Students can anticipate receiving an Award/Acceptance Letter from Virginia Bio-Connect as early as mid-late February up until March 31, 2022. Employers will communicate offer letters and start dates with qualified students, which may be prior to receiving the award letter.

Q: Will I be able to select the location where I am available to complete an internship?
A: Yes. Students will have the opportunity to select the location that best fits their individual circumstances and organizational interest. More than one location can be selected when determining internship opportunities.

Q: Can I select more than one location to complete my internship?
A: Yes. You may select more than one location to conduct your internship. Employers will review your application and accompanying materials (cover letter, resume, etc.) based on the location selected during your application process.

Q: Can I split my internship experience into two seperate four-week positions?
A: No. Students must complete their internship experience with their cohort from June 6, 2022 - July 29, 2022. Any additional time outside of this eight-week period must be negotiated between the intern and the host employer.

Q: If I am offered multiple positions, can I accept them both?

For more information, contact VA Bio-Connect at vbcintern@vabio.org

A: Students will only be able to select one internship opportunity. Once a decision has been made, students will accept the one internship offer and decline any additional offers.

Q: Is housing available?
A: Housing is not funded under the STEM2VA Internship Program. Please click here for housing resources.

Q: What will the timing, or the potential start date, of my internship be?
A: Internships 8 weeks long, beginning June 6, 2022 and ending July 29, 2022

Q: Are there any citizenship/green card/visa requirements for these positions?
A: To apply to the STEM2VA internship program students do not need to provide any citizenship documentation. Students attending a Virginia higher education institution regardless of citizenship status are able and encouraged to apply. Employers may have citizenship requirements and this can be discussed further in the interview process.

Q: How are interns paid for the summer experience?
A: Students who participate in the Summer Internship Program are compensated through the company's existing payroll and pay schedule. To be paid, students must submit hours worked through the employer's requested payroll platform or by directions given from the host employer.

Q: Do I need to be currently enrolled in a full-time course load to be eligible for an internship opportunity?
A: Students must be enrolled in a 2-year, undergraduate or graduate program, at least on a part-time basis.

Q: What does a complete application look like?
A: Generally, a complete application includes:
- A resume with:
    - A visible graduation date (month and year)
    - Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs) related to the area of focus
    - Previous work experience (if applicable)
    - Relevant in class experience (lab work, research, computational skills etc.)
- Cover Letter expressing interest, KSAs, experience etc.

Q: I've gained new skills since I applied. Can I update my resume?
A: Yes. It is encouraged to submit the most up to date resume and cover letter to your application for application review. Applications can be edited and updated up until the application submission date of January 31, 2022.

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Q: I have an offer deadline for another Summer 2022 opportunity. Can I be fast-tracked through the process?
A: You can include your offer deadline in your cover letter or resume. Employers may consider your offer deadline in their decision process.

Q: Can I withdraw my application or rescind my offer/award acceptance?
A: Yes. On or before January 31, 2022, you may withdraw your application online by contacting the VA Bio-Connect Director of Programs at vbcintern@vabio.org of your decision to withdraw or rescind. If you are interviewing with an organization, inform your point of contact at the employer office of your withdrawal or rescission.

Q: I'm not available for the Summer 2022 internship. Can you copy my application to another season?
A: No. The STEM2VA Internship Program is currently only available for Summer 2022.

Q: Will this internship be available for upcoming semesters?
A: Currently, the STEM2VA Internship Program is only available Summer 2022. VA Bio-Connect hopes to have this opportunity beyond the Summer 2022 term. Please continue to reference our website for updates and more information for future semester opportunities.

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