



Student Internship Experience

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OVERVIEW – EXPERIENCE, ENGAGE, ENJOY

Student interns in Summer on the Cuyahoga represent a wide range of backgrounds and life experiences, but all are committed to getting the most from their summer in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio (NEO). You will gain tremendous work experience and insight into a variety of career opportunities, and enjoy amazing cultural, social and civic engagement programming, alumni networking, and opportunities to form lifelong friendships. SOTC offers the complete summer package!

Work in challenging paid internships during the day, and choose from a wide range of cultural, social and civic activities to fill evenings and weekends. Students enjoy the opportunity to live with peers from other participating schools while forming close ties with their own local alumnae/i networks.

Summer on the Cuyahoga offers internships in a wide range of fields from banking to field research. Interns in the program enjoy a number of benefits unmatched in most other internship programs:

- **Paid internships** (9 to 10 weeks) – Internships are the core of the summer experience in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio (NEO), and there is a plethora of them in fields such as finance, marketing, IT, urban development, education and entrepreneurship. Internship experiences are increasingly critical to the post-college job search, and many program participants have even converted their SOTC internships into full-time job opportunities in Greater Cleveland.
- **Free housing.** All students, **without exception**, are expected to live in program-sponsored housing. You will live in suites with students from other participating schools. Housing is located at Case Western Reserve University. For more information on housing, visit the Expanded Details section below. **Students may not opt-out of cohort housing, even if family resides in the area.**
- **Whirlwind experience in Greater Cleveland.** Throughout the summer, enjoy a wide range of civic, cultural and social experiences, from time with corporate and community leaders to a behind-the-scene tour at institutions like the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, SOTC offers it all at little or no charge to interns. A number of the 40+ events include complimentary snacks or food!
- **An alumni ambassador connection.** We pair every intern with an alumni ambassador who will help orient you to NEO and be a “home away from home” during your stay.
- **Alumni networking.** Enjoy access to your school’s alumni network in NEO and learn networking skills. Community introductions will abound.
- **A summer with students from other schools.** Meet and socialize with approximately 70 students participating in the program. Explore a new job and a new city with dozens of new friends!
- **Assistance with securing full-time employment.** If you end up having an interest in relocating to Cleveland after graduation local alumni and the Summer on the Cuyahoga staff are prepared to assist you with seeking and securing permanent employment in the region.

Program Requirements

Internships with Summer on the Cuyahoga are available for **rising sophomores, juniors, seniors and recent graduates of undergraduate studies (not Masters)** attending Allegheny, Case Western Reserve, Colgate, Cornell, Denison, Miami U of Ohio, Mandel Honors at CSU, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Smith, University of Chicago, and Washington & Jefferson College. **There are limitations on first year students eligible to participate – See Application Process below.**

IMPORTANT – SOTC is an immersive internship program. All participating student interns are required to:

- Reside in program-sponsored housing, **without exception**
- Participate in a minimum of 10 program-sponsored events or activities of your choosing in addition to 5 required base events for a total of 15 or more events and activities.
- Pay a one-time \$300 student fee (arrangements or payment plan may be available for extenuating circumstances). Some schools or clubs may offer grants or assistance with this fee.
- Participate in the program for the entire 9 weeks – exceptions made for occasional long-weekend trips (wedding/reunion) as agreed to by both SOTC and employer – plan longer vacations for before or after the program dates. The dates for 2026 are June 1st - July 31st (9-week program).
- While cost-free housing is provided, students are responsible for budgeting for and addressing their own meal needs. Although SOTC may offer snacks or food options at select events the program is not responsible for providing meals. Cost-free housing is only available for 9 weeks stated above.

NOTE: If you are unable to comply with all of the above requirements then please do not apply for an SOTC internship. This is a competitive application process with approximately 80-90 openings, and it is important that we have spots available for students fully willing to participate and that would genuinely benefit from an SOTC internship and program experience here in Cleveland.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted from current freshman*, sophomores, juniors and seniors. Some employers may specify if they are seeking students with specific graduation years (E.g. current Juniors and Seniors).

***Freshman/First Year Student Applicant Exceptions:** Current first year students are now eligible for positions offered through Summer on the Cuyahoga from all schools. **Note:** Smith College has a cap of one (1) current first-year student eligible to participate. The Smith policy may be found by [clicking here](#). It is strictly up to the employer to determine if first year students will be offered positions and no more than 5 eligible/hired first year students will be permitted to participate per summer (above and beyond UChicago Odyssey Scholars).

New internship opportunities will continue to be added to the website between early September and mid-April, and students may apply to positions at any time. **No set application deadlines.** Given the popularity of the internships, students are encouraged to apply for positions as soon as they become available. Employers hire interns according to their schedules; they will review the applications as they are submitted, and interns can check the status of their applications online. As positions are filled, they will be removed from viewing on the website. The application process will run until the end of April or until all positions are filled.

As you view the jobs, the categories should help you prioritize your search, but please remember that some employers' job postings may cut across different functions. For example, one company may have multiple positions in a variety of areas, such as an HR Intern (Human Resources Category), Database Management Intern (Information Technology Category), and an Accounting Intern (Finance & Accounting Category).

TIP: You may apply to as many positions as you wish but keep in mind that you are applying directly to the employer through the SOTC portal, not to the program. While you will be able to save your application information in the password-protected account that you create, you should tailor each application package to what the employer requests. Cover letters paired with resumes as one doc are encouraged.



To Apply for a Position

Note: College domain email is required for registration.

Students apply directly to employers through our site, and employers review your applications.

- You must first “REGISTER FOR A NEW ACCOUNT” **any time AFTER September 1st – even if you had an account the previous year or created one before.**
- Once you are logged-in, please complete all portions of the “MY PROFILE” by clicking “MY PROFILE” on the main menu.
- Once your profile is fully completed, click on “INTERNSHIPS” on the main menu. Now you can browse through all available positions from SOTC employers. When you find one that interests you, click VIEW to learn more. Incomplete profiles may result in application not being submitted.
- **Please read the job description carefully.** If you believe that you have the qualifications, are willing to participate in the SOTC immersion program, and wish to apply for the position, **answer the question** “WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THIS INTERNSHIP AND SOTC PROGRAM EXPERIENCE TO YOU?,” UPLOAD your resume, cover letter and any other documents you wish to include as one document. Be sure your “MY PROFILE” is completed and contains current information. Then click “SUBMIT APPLICATION AND RESUME.” It’s that easy!
- You may apply to multiple positions that interest you, and you can keep track of your applications and their status my clicking “DASHBOARD” or “MY APPLICATIONS.”
- **Important:** If you accept an internship elsewhere or you are no longer interested in an internship for which you’ve applied, PLEASE “WITHDRAW” your application by clicking “WITHDRAW” next to it under “STATUS OF INTERNSHIPS FOR WHICH YOU’VE APPLIED.”

Employers are encouraged to follow up with applicants, but if you do not hear from them, you may wish to directly contact the person listed on the Job Description. Employers are encouraged to update your application status on the website. If an employer chooses to interview you, you will be contacted to arrange a time for an interview. If an employer chooses to offer you a position, they will do so via the SOTC portal. This will be forwarded to you by an SOTC staff member. You are expected to respond to the employer’s Offer/Commitment Letter within a specified period of time, usually 3-5 business days.

Expanded Details

Events

SOTC staff and alumni volunteers organize a series of events to enhance your summer in Northeast Ohio. Events are planned with your interests in mind and include meetings with civic leaders, cultural, social, and community service offerings, as well as career explorations with young professionals and alumni. Since you’re working during the day, events are scheduled during evenings and weekends. While some events are required, most are optional, and ALL are interesting! **We expect each intern will attend five (5) required events in addition to at least ten (10) other events over the course of the summer.** If you are not willing to be an engaged member of the cohort and attend at least 15 events, please do not apply.

Alumni Ambassadors

You will be partnered with an adult alumni ambassador for the summer, with the intent that the ambassador becomes a resource regarding life after college and the possibility of a future in Cleveland. Since the ambassador is an alumnus/alumna of your specific school, we have found that the relationship often continues beyond



the summer experiences. You'll find it's a great way to stay connected to NEO news and opportunities when you're back at school or onto the next part of your life. For their part, the alumni enjoy the connection to current life on campus at their Alma mater.

Some events will be arranged for students and ambassadors together, but many ambassadors and students may coordinate their own interactions, like a bi-weekly lunch, coffee and/or zoom meet-up.

Housing

SOTC is a residential program, and **all** program participants (including those from NEO) are required to live in the dorm. The accommodations are apartment-like suites, and living together close to the city as young professionals is always a highlight for the interns. Housing is subsidized by SOTC with support from employers, grants and sponsors. SOTC does not guarantee housing or cover housing costs beyond the main 9-week program dates stated above. Alumni Ambassadors may be able to provide a complimentary homestay or occasionally interns staying beyond the 9 weeks may share in the expense of an Airbnb with other interns. Early arrivals may incur a \$25 per day fee until the official move-in weekend date.

2026 Housing

During the nine-plus weeks interns will live on the campus of **Case Western Reserve University**. These are suite style dormitories on campus and close to a number of attractions, food options and public transportation

Each student will have a bed in an apartment style suite with up to 3 additional suitemates. Each includes a kitchen or kitchenette and minimum of two bathrooms. The suites are air conditioned. Each suite has complimentary Wi-Fi access, cable access, refrigerator, stove, sink and microwave.

All SOTC students from the participating schools will be in the building along with other summer interns or summer semester students. More information will be provided to participants once housing details have been finalized. SOTC staff will send an in-depth confidential survey in May to assist with suitemate matching.

For students planning to bring a vehicle or considering it, summer parking passes are available for purchase beginning in May via the CWRU website. The cost is approximately \$200-250 depending on how many days you purchase the pass for. SOTC may offer a partial reimbursement for those willing to carpool for events, work and errands throughout the summer.

Have any additional questions not covered here? Email us at info@summeronthecuyahoga.com or check out our website! Otherwise, best wishes as you begin to apply for your Summer internship and we hope to have you join us in Cleveland for a rewarding and memorable summer!