5 Tips to Maximize Your Internship in London

An internship is a time to test out your professional interests in an environment that supports learning, personal development, and exploration. In London, there are many opportunities to get workplace experience and fully immerse in British culture. You’ll develop technical, collaborative, language and communication skills as you interact with new colleagues and learn what they do. Your contributions also help the organization and their mission.

Although your internship will be entry-level, there will be challenges. You’ll need to adapt to different work customs, learn to communicate with diverse colleagues, and manage an intense schedule all within a limited duration of time. So, then, how do you complete a successful internship? Here are five tips:

1. **Know your Motive**
   Before applying for an internship, ask yourself, “why do I want to intern London?” List out your top answers and *really think about what drives and inspires you*. Then discuss your interests and expectations in your pre-placement interview. Taking the time to establish your priorities and expectations will focus your internship and result in a more fulfilling and engaging experience.

2. **Do Your Homework**
   Once you are assigned an internship, take time to *learn about the organization*. Who are they? What do they do? What is their mission? How do your passions align? The more you know about the organization, the more connected you will feel to your work.

3. **Set Specific Goals**
   Knowing that this is an entry level position, and with the organization and your personal aspirations in mind, *set tangible and achievable goals*. What skills do you intend to gain? (professional, collaboration, administrative abilities, marketing, research, coding, etc.) What experience do you need? (networking, navigating office culture, organizing meetings, etc.). Consider the barriers you may encounter and be realistic.

4. **Talk with your Supervisor**
   Equal to your goals and expectations are those of the organization. Early on, share your goals with your supervisor and *establish a plan to meet your goals* while also meeting his or her expectations. Discuss your role in the organization, potential opportunities, and limitations such as time.

5. **Value Your Work**
   While interning, think about the ways each task, big or small, advances your goals, helps you develop new skills, and helps you grow as a person. Be sure to *think about how your work contributes to the goals of the organization*. Celebrating your achievements will motivate and empower you to succeed during and after your internship.

If you put in the time, energy, and critical analysis, your internship is sure to succeed.