School of Journalism

INTERNSHIPS

The School of Journalism encourages its students to take one or more off-campus internships during their undergraduate years. Here are our guidelines:

Students may receive academic credit for internships. To earn academic credit toward their journalism degrees, interns must work a minimum of eight 7-hour days, or 56 hours, per credit, and the work must be journalistic in nature—not clerical, public relations or marketing. Occasional clerical tasks are acceptable, but the bulk of the work must involve research, writing, editing, logging or other journalistic tasks.

Whether a student is paid for work as an intern has no bearing on whether he or she receive academic credit. Paid internships are preferable, especially for summer internships when students may be sacrificing the hours they would otherwise work toward tuition payments and may also be paying for credits. (During the fall and spring, their regular tuition payments cover internship credits.) In the absence of pay, transportation and/or meal stipends are much appreciated. Few of our students come from wealthy families. Nevertheless, we aren’t looking to price our students out of the internship marketplace. As we tell our students constantly, internship experience is vital.

We expect employers to reimburse interns’ on-the-job expenses.

Interns should receive consistent supervision and training at the workplace from professional journalists. Unless specified prior to the start of the internship, the employer will provide the intern with equipment needed to perform the assigned journalistic tasks—cameras, for example. We ask that the intern’s supervisor complete our evaluation form at the end of the internship.

The news organization must be independent of political, advocacy or commercial interests outside of journalism.

Please e-mail me at Barbara.Selvin@stonybrook.edu if I can provide you with additional information.

Barbara Selvin
Assistant Professor
Internship Coordinator