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Making the most of your Toronto internship



This time of year marks the beginning of **internships** for many students, or at least the application process for summer internships. If you find yourself in this group, it's an exciting time as you begin to apply what you've spent countless hours on learning in the classroom in real life. This is your first "real" job. This is the start of your career – no pressure!

It may feel overwhelming, since you want to ace this opportunity, but try not to think of it that way. This is the time to show your employer your potential and to learn as much as you can. It's also the time to set yourself up for your next position. In order to make the right impression with your employer when you leave your internship, here are a few tips to keep in mind.

Say "yes" to everything

No job is too big or too small for you. Any work that comes across your desk, say yes to it. Your internship is the time to try everything without any hesitation. If you succeed, it's an amazing confidence booster. If you fail, it's excellent experience to carry with you for next time.

The more you can do in your internship, the greater the chances are you will begin to find out what you like to focus on, and where you excel, when you find

that next job.

Find out where you stand

Once you've started developing a relationship with your manager and coworkers, and you're a few weeks or months into your internship, don't be afraid to ask for feedback on what you're doing well, where you can improve (because you're still so new, the answer will probably be everywhere and everything!), and if there are opportunities to try new things.

A good manager will not set you up to fail. They will take an interest in your development and provide the feedback you need to push you to succeed.

Be yourself

Don't be someone you're not. Do not misrepresent yourself to your team and manager. You will achieve more and get more out of your internship by being yourself. It's like being in a relationship - do you want it to be built on a lie? It sounds silly, but let your personality and talent shine through and they'll like you even more (and appreciate your genuine attitude).

Remember, your manager and coworkers are your first **networking contacts**. You don't want to jeopardize your internship and future prospects by acting in a way that raises suspicion and doubt.

At the end of your internship, you'll walk away with experience, confidence, and a couple great references and contacts for **your first job**. Take the time to make this internship your own and put your mark on it.
Good luck!

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