SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW FOR ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERS

The Computational Social Science Summer Internship Program at the University of Chicago was created as a means of developing long-term partnerships between the Masters in Computational Social Science program and participating organizations. At the heart of this program is the desire to provide graduate students with compelling experiences and career opportunities aligned with our research training while allowing our partners to create a pipeline of talent to fill future full-time positions.

As a leader in higher education with high standards for intellectual rigor, UChicago has a long tradition of training its graduate students for analytical careers in the public and private sectors. The Masters in Computational Social Science program builds a strong foundation in large data analysis, modeling, and computer programming. Additionally, the program adds the ability to apply cutting edge technologies and statistical techniques to big data sets, magnitudes larger than one normally encounters as a social science investigator. Our students are trained to apply strong qualitative and quantitative social science research skills to analyze human behavior and big data across multiple industries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I be interested in hiring a computational social scientist from UChicago?
Hiring talented employees, skilled in computational work, is challenging. This is an opportunity to have a first crack at some of the best MA students recruited from around the globe. Try them out for three months in the summer. If you like the fit, you can start negotiations with the student to secure their start date upon degree completion (June).

How is that program structured, and what skills can I expect applicants to have?
Our students seek internships between the first and second year of their MA program. With an average quantitative GRE of 88%, and a full year of UChicago training in computational inference, modeling, simulation, and big data analysis, this program gives you access to the most talented and rigorous computational researchers. Three quarters are international, all have excellent English, and they are committed to helping your team with strong computational analysis.

What specific computational talents can I expect? (For Computational Specialists)
By the end of their first year, our students will have had serious exposure to R, Python, and the fundamentals of computational inference with big data. Some will have Julia, SQL, STATA, Matlab, and other programming languages that will be of interest. They will have taken at least 3 courses emphasizing applied research in their field, along with a 4-course core and two electives in mathematics and statistics.

When would the candidates be available to work, and how do I hire them?
Our candidates could join your company in the middle of June and work through the middle of September. Based on your preferences, we will host on-campus recruitment events and facilitate any on or off-campus interviewing you might prefer. Students will apply in January, seek interviews in February and early March, and receive offers mid-March (ideally).

(See full timeline on next page)

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
(continued)

DATES	ACTION
Fall – Winter	Career Services secures partners; Collects overviews & job descriptions
January 15	Post and promote internship opportunities to students
January 15	Student applications open
February 15	Student applications close
February 15	Applications sent to Organizational Partners
February - March	Interviews begin
March 15	Final selections reported to Career Services
June - September	Completion of internships at Organizational Partner Sites
October	Performance Evaluations sent to Organizational Partners

What formalities do I need to worry about for international students?
A signed offer letter from your organization is required for the cooperative education internship to be approved by the Office of International Affairs. The offer letter must: (1) be on letterhead stationery, (2) state the intended job title and duties, (3) include the precise beginning and end dates of employment, (4) specify whether the employment will be part-time (20 hours per week or less) or full-time (more than 20 hours per week), and (5) state the EXACT location of the training, which means the entire address including: street, city, state, and zip code. Any omission could delay the approval process and hold up the receipt of their Social Security Number.

Students will enroll in a designated non-credit course, sponsored through the University. That relieves you of any visa obligations, and allows our students to work without additional permissions from the federal government. If you like your intern, and decide to hire that person full-time after they graduate, our international students qualify for up to 3 years of work permission if the position is STEM related as part of their student visas.

What monetary commitment am I being asked to make?
We seek to guarantee funding to support our students during their internships. By design, partners commit to a minimum wage of $25/hour paid directly to the student for the three-month experience. That compensation assumes the intern's continued employment for the duration of the internship. If any problems arise, that amount will be pro-rated to the intern's time at work. Internships last 10-12 weeks, depending on start date, but we anticipate internships running mid June through mid September. Additional monies normally provided to interns by the Organizational Partner (i.e. higher wages, performance incentives, signing bonuses, per diems, living or temporary relocation stipends) would be supplied by the organization directly to the student intern.

If I commit, am I guaranteed to get an intern?
We will do everything possible to connect Organizational Partners with interested students. Confirming your participation interest in the program, allows us to start promoting your opportunities. We expect 20- 25 students to participate in the Summer Internship Program and will coordinate a "meet and greet" with interested students before the application deadline.

CAMPUS CONTACTS & ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH THIS PROGRAM
Please contact our Director of Career Services, Shelly Robinson (slrobins@uchicago.edu) for more information on the internship program.

There are other ways to get connect to the program such as sponsoring or facilitating a computation workshop, hosting a student event at your site, or donating to the scholarship fund. Please contact our Faculty Chair, Dr. James Evans (jevans@uchicago.edu) for details.