



10 Essential Features for Successful Virtual Internships

As internships head remote it will be crucial to build support systems with buy-in from faculty, alumni, employers and providers. Which remote internship provider is right for your needs? Are you asking the right questions?

1 Experience:

How long has your remote internship provider been placing students in virtual Internships? Do they have a proven track record? Can you see testimonials of success from both students and university partners?

2 Wide Variety of Career Fields:

Can students from any major or department find a suitable internship to give them experience and knowledge in their chosen area? What can a student learn from a virtual internship within these career fields?

3 Host company selection and training:

Is the host company trained in understanding the nuances of supervising a remote intern? Is it a project-based program with clear timelines, deliverables and feedback?

4 Invested and trained supervisors:

Is the supervisor trained in how to mentor the interns with regular feedback and advice? Have they been given the technology tools to run a virtual internship program? Has the program set out expectations that enforce a strong feedback loop and project planning?

5 Online Course & Assessment:

Is there an online, credit-bearing course to help prepare students in advance of the program, and provide a space for reflective learning during the program?

6 Career Coaching:

Is there external coaching from trained professionals to help students push their learning outcomes within a recognized framework such as the NACE Career Competencies?

7 Risk Management support:

In most cases virtual internships run smoothly, but does the provider have a risk management procedure to deal with digital harassment and online bullying? Is health and safety support addressed?

8 Intercultural Exposure:

Is there an option for placements with global companies, so interns gain experience with international work? Any language support or initiatives for those doing international internships?

9 Competitive Pricing:

Is the price right in terms of high-quality placements, career coaching, and enhanced employability? If too low, is the appropriate level of supervision being incorporated? If too high, does this offer the correct return on investment for the intern.

10 Program & Community Support:

Alongside the Career Coach, is there a program manager who is there for the intern to deal with any issues or questions they have on the program? Can interns share questions and experiences with students undertaking similar online internships?