



The Benefits of Completing an Internship

With many of you starting to think about your post-graduate future, it's important to make yourself as marketable as possible. While completing a degree is a must in securing a job, the truth is that competition is tough for entry-level quantitative professionals. Every year, over 5,000 students graduate with a Master's in statistics or mathematics, and almost 2,000 earn a PhD. The quantitative job market is hot, but you need to set yourself apart and one of the best ways to do so is through a professional internship.

At Burtch Works we've worked with many entry-level candidates, which has allowed us to gain a unique perspective on the job market and what employers look for in recent grads. Employers know that as full time students, most of your experience is limited in terms of the data that you're exposed to, so an internship is a great way to compensate for this and gain exposure to "real world" data.

While the workload and practice you get from earning a degree in statistics is invaluable, the data that students typically work with is created as a sample, and is therefore very clean. Many recent grads often experience a rude awakening when they enter their first job and see that the data they will be working with is quite the opposite: messy and complex. However, if you have an internship opportunity, the transition is usually easier.

Job prospects are generally better for candidates with internship experience. The employers that we work with always prefer to talk to entry-level candidates with internships, because they know they have had at least some previous work experience involving real data.

One of the obvious downsides of having an internship is that it can take away from your schoolwork and some of them are unpaid. We'd like to emphasize that working on your degree should be your priority, but if you are in a position to take on an internship the experience will not only help you in your new job, but could help you land a job even faster. Sometimes interns are offered positions at the end of their internships, but even if this is not a possibility, using your internship supervisor as a reference for a job is a definite advantage.

Choosing the right internship can not only boost your market value, it can help you land an interview or even a job - especially since it can help you expand your network. We encourage you all to enhance your resume with internship experience or, at the very least, an academic corporate project that utilizes real data. Job sites like [Indeed](#) and [icrunchdata](#), LinkedIn groups, your university's career center, faculty, and your local [ASA chapter](#) are great places to look when searching for an internship.

If you have questions about which one would be right for you or are curious about which companies are particularly receptive to graduates who have completed an internship, don't hesitate to reach out to us.