

Fashion Week Internships

The Value of Internships

By far the most common question the Fashion Week Internships team is asked by applicants during the FWI application process is “what are the benefits of your program?” and “what is the value of doing a fashion industry internship?”

The answer while simple, actually has multiple parts to it, and today we'll summarise the key ones, to give you a better idea of why so many students and graduates now actively seek out opportunities like ours.

'Gain Real-World Work Experience'

Fashion Week Internship interns gain 'up-close' and 'hands-on' industry experience.

When asked what they value most in candidates when trying to fill roles, employers state the obvious – 'a great team worker, the ability to work independently, a critical and proactive mindset, great communication skills', but above all, they want candidates that have **relevant industry experience!**

It is no coincidence then that the desire to gain relevant fashion industry experience is by far the highest ranked single reason that applicants apply to Fashion Week Internships.

Candidates with relevant experience stand out at interview, as internship experience (domestic or international) creates great talking points that allow you to showcase your experience and show interviewers how passionate you are about the industry and developing your career in it.

Fashion Week Internships end of program surveys show that over 90% of our interns believe that their internship taught them something that they didn't learn in the class

'Test Drive Your Chosen Career Sector'

Approximately 70% of Fashion Week Internships internship program applications come from students and graduates who have never interned in the fashion industry before.

This is a staggeringly high number, when you consider that many of those same applicants are studying a fashion-related course, and are fully invested in building a career in the industry post-graduation.

Investing two, three or even four years into a degree or course, without actually getting a 'feel' for what the industry is really like, is something none of us would do if we were buying a car, a great coat, or even a house - so it is definitely not something you should do with your career.

Fashion Week Internships provide the opportunity to 'test-drive' the industry, without the need to make a major commitment, giving you the opportunity to gain real insight into what the industry is really like, not just what you think it might be like after watching a couple of episodes of Project Runway!

'Building Professional Networks'

They say 'it isn't what you know, it's who you know'.

While we don't totally agree with that adage, it is definitely true that networking and building strong connections in the fashion industry, can prove invaluable, not least to provide mentors who can guide advise and support you, but also to act as references and even future employers.

Every year, Fashion Week Internships interns are hired by their host companies, either directly after completing their internship program, or once they complete their college program - so the value of being proactive in building your network during your internship cannot be overstated.

'Make Your Resume Stand-Out'

Glassdoor says that 'employers and recruiters spend an average of just six seconds looking at a CV / resume' before deciding whether to consider it further for a role.

That means you have next to no time to have your CV / resume say something about you, that makes a potential employer take note. Fashion Week Internships domestic and international internship programs help you do just that.

Interning at an international fashion house, well-known brand or designer, or an award-winning PR & events agency gets you noticed, shows endeavour, and makes a reader want to know more, which is why we tell all of our interns to shout about their FWI experiences, and help them build professional level CV/resumes to showcase the skills they learn during their experiences.

What are You Waiting For!

In summary, internships serve a multitude of purposes, and provide a variety of benefits for the intern, over the short, medium and long-term horizon, from instilling belief and confidence, to strengthening your resume, and providing mentorship.

At Fashion Week Internships, we love sharing our knowledge of the global fashion industry, and helping applicants achieve their fashion-related career goals, so whatever your goals are, we look forward to talking to you, to see how we can help.