

Internship Policy for Firms (BSD Interior Design and Master of Interior Architecture)

ASU Interior Design Internship Program Overview

The Interior Design Internship Program for students in the BSD Interior Design degree program and the Master of Interior Architecture degree program offers students a means to collaborate with participating professionals in meaningful and relevant off-campus learning experiences. This work-related experience introduces students to the professional office and practice. In addition, students earn academic credit for what they learn in the off-campus experience. The internship's goal is to fill the gap between the academic and professional worlds. It is a time when the student can see the profession in a fairly unthreatening manner and get an overview of the profession in all its details. The internship is a required graduation requirement for the BSD INT and MIA curricula. The internship offers a means to maximize the undergraduate educational experience by expanding professional training and, when feasible, developing strength in special interest areas. The internship will also prepare the student for the transition in academic focus and level of design complexity, which occurs during the final undergraduate year. Students will be able to apply the theory learned in class to an actual work situation. The work world cannot be duplicated in the classroom, and an internship will provide important understanding and experience.

Firm Guidelines

The internship is a practical learning experience to be completed in a professional office specializing in interior design or architecture, under the mentorship of a *registered interior designer or licensed architect*. It is the responsibility of the sponsoring firm to give interns a broad exposure to a full range of professional practice activities, provide meaningful task assignments and guidance, and assign one principal as the intern's supervisor. The requirements for this internship are 320 hours, preferably completed in 40-hour work weeks during the summer semester, and submission of documentation as described below. Our faculty encourages firms to provide students monetary compensation but cannot require that students be paid for this 8-week full-time experience. The earliest a student may begin the internship is April 15, which overlaps the end of the school year. The last day to participate in the internship is August 15. No prior work experience can be counted toward this internship. Students are encouraged to seek an internship in a firm at which they have *not* previously been employed for one year or more.

A pre-requisite to the summer internship is INT 381/581 Pre-Internship Seminar, which is a course offered fall semester of the previous year. Students complete the summer internship prior to their final year. Students register for the INT 484/584 Internship course either during the summer semester (MIA students) or during the following fall semester (BSD INT students). International undergraduate students wishing to work in the United States must enroll for INT 484 during the *summer* semester.

Materials Required for Internship

1. *Internship Contract*

The internship contract is filled out by the student, signed by the firm supervisor, and returned to the School office. The internship contract form is available on the school's website (design.asu.edu). The student is responsible for making sure that the form is completed and returned promptly. This form must be completed and filed with the school office BEFORE beginning the internship.

2. *Supervisor Evaluation Form*

The supervisor's evaluation form is completed by the student's internship supervisor after completion of the internship and returned to the School office. The supervisor evaluation form is available on the school's website (design.asu.edu). It is a primary component required for posting a grade in INT 484/584. The internship supervisor is expected to comment on the quality and on the value of the student's performance within his/her firm. The student should remind the supervisor to fill out and return the form within two weeks of completion of the internship. It may be returned to The Design School using one of the following methods listed below.

3. *Individual Assignments and Assessment*

The intern will have assignments to complete to assess his or her progress in the internship. This work is to be completed during the summer internship period. These assignments are administered by the instructing faculty.

Mail- The Design School
Internship Program
PO Box 871605
Tempe, AZ 85287-1605
Email- designmail@asu.edu
Fax- (480) 965-0968

Any questions pertaining to the internship forms can be sent to designmail@asu.edu, and questions regarding the internship program can be directed to the BSD INT/MIA Internship Coordinator, Dr. Diane Bender, at diane.bender@asu.edu.

The Design School

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480.965.3536 Fax: 480.965.0968 design.asu.edu