2020 Purposeful Work Virtual Internship Announcement

Ensuring that you have access to Purposeful Work experiences is a priority of the college. We take seriously our role in helping you gain meaningful, skill-building work experiences during the summer. We are very happy to share the news that we will offer opportunities for sophomores, juniors, and seniors to participate in the Purposeful Work Internship Program this summer.

What's Different This Year: The 2020 Purposeful Work Internship Program will be almost exclusively virtual, and projects and internships will vary in length and scope depending on the needs of the employer. We are actively working with employers, including many Bates alumni and parents, to imagine new projects and summer internships for you, and to re-imagine internships they have offered in the past.

What's the Same This Year: The Purposeful Work Internship Program is unique because of its emphasis on goal-setting, reflection, and cohort-based communication with your peers and Center staff. All of this will stay the same. We will help employers and students carry out these tasks and communications virtually -- as we are all expanding our creative, problem-solving, and communication skills in this new shared virtual reality.

What Steps Do You Take? There are two ways to apply to participate in a Purposeful Work Internship:

1) Apply on Handshake to work for an employer who has posted a Virtual Purposeful Work Internship (keyword PW 2020). As we secure additional opportunities with alumni, parents, and friends of Bates, they will be continuously shared on Handshake. Continue to search Handshake Jobs for PW 2020 as employers add new opportunities weekly. Application deadlines for these opportunities vary by individual posting.

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply for these opportunities posted on Handshake, students must have completed SkillScan Express and have their resume and cover letter reviewed by staff at the Center for Purposeful Work.

2) If you have secured a meaningful work opportunity of 75-300 hours on your own that is unpaid or low-paying, you can apply for funding on Handshake.

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply for PW 2020 Virtual Internship Competitive Funding, students must have their resume reviewed by Purposeful Work staff, and complete the application form posted on Handshake here. **As noted, there will be three funding deadlines: April 27, May 11, May 25.**

Additional Resources and Support

For those of you considering other short-term opportunities, we want to highlight two additional programs that you may wish to explore: Parker Dewey micro-internships (paid) and Paragon One remote externships (unpaid). Both of these programs provide access to short-term professional development experiences. Explore their platforms to see if what they offer matches your personal and professional needs at this time.

Should you need help with Purposeful Work internship/funding applications or any summer plans, our counselors are available to connect via phone, Zoom, Google Hangout, or email. You can make an appointment for M-F 8 am-4 pm ET through Handshake (log in, go to the upper tab “Career Center” and then click “Appointments”). If you have any trouble making an appointment, please email purposefulwork@bates.edu. You can also email us with questions, concerns, or suggestions for services you’d like to see Purposeful Work provide in the coming days and weeks.

NOTE: If you’ve missed any of the sophomore class messages since March 23, please check them out here on the Purposeful Work COVID-19 page.

As always, we’re here for you.

The Team at the Center for Purposeful Work