Making the Most of Your UCSD Experience:
Internships, Research, and Leadership Opportunities at UC San Diego
Learning Outcomes

● Describe “experiential learning” and how it develops your skills and competencies

● Understand UCSD Resources and Programs for real-world learning

● Learn strategies to maximize your growth and experience in these opportunities

● Strengthen your ability to communicate the skills you will develop in these experiences
What is experiential learning?

“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”

~Aristotle
Experiential Learning: Part-Time Job

In the Chat:
List a part-time job that you have had.

What did you do?
Part-Time Job @ UCSD

https://ucsd.joinhandshake.com/
Experiential Learning: Student Organizations

In the Chat:
Write a student organization you plan to join!
Student Organizations @ UCSD

https://getinvolved.ucsd.edu/
Experiential Learning: Internships

In the Chat:
List an internship that you have had.

Where did you intern?
Internships @ UCSD

Jenny Nhan
BISP 197 - The Scripps Research Institute
Department of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience

What advice would you give other students about participating in an academic internship?
Embrace this opportunity to network and form dynamic relationships with professionals and faculty members. You will find inspiration to become tomorrow’s innovator, researcher, or leader in your career goals. When you’re passionate about what you do, learning extends well beyond the classroom.

https://aip.ucsd.edu/
Experiential Learning: Research

In the Chat:
List what kind of research you have conducted.
Research

https://real.ucsd.edu/

https://aep.ucsd.edu/
What are the benefits of experiential learning?

Build Skills & Get Real-World Experience

Find Community & Grow Network

Explore & Pursue Interests
Experiential Learning Process

Discover
opportunities across and beyond campus

Do
get hands-on experience in and beyond the classroom

Review
and reflect on skills and competencies developed

Capture
experiences + skills developed

Share
with graduate schools and employers
There are many places to get involved on campus. Here are just some!

- Internships for academic credit
- Research, internship, or global experiences
- Jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities
- Clubs and professional development
- Your College: Clubs, programs, residence, mentorship
- Study Abroad: UC San Diego
- Global experiences
- Campus community centers
- Intercollegiate & Intramural Athletics and Recreation
- Your Academic Department: Research opportunities, education and career goals
- Undergraduate research and professional preparation
Discover: Consider your options

➔ What type of experience do you want (internship, community service, campus leadership, etc)?
➔ What kind of organization do you want to work with?
➔ What you would like to gain from the experience?
➔ When will you participate?
➔ What do you need to do to prepare for an opportunity?
How to find opportunities

➜ Connect with **people on campus**
   - Utilize campus resources!! Talk with advisors, professors, and peers to identify opportunities
   - Engage campus resource centers

➜ Connect with **professionals in the field**
   - Identify and connect with target organizations to make them aware of your interest and enthusiasm
   - Join workshops, speaker events, and job fairs
   - Conduct informational interviews

➜ Utilize your **personal network**
   - Reach out to family, friends, teachers, and previous employers for advice about where to apply and what openings are available.
Making the most of your experience

- Establish learning goals
- Treat every experience in a professional manner
- Take the initiative
- Network
- Reflect on what you enjoyed and what you learned
- Ask for feedback
- Ask for recommendation letters
- Collect artifacts
Collect Artifacts

UC San Diego

COMPETENCIES

Career Readiness Competencies

Co-Curricular Record

https://elt.ucsd.edu/
Questions?

http://aip.ucsd.edu
aipinfo@ucsd.edu
https://aip-ucsd.youcanbook.me/