

Time Flies When You're Having Fun: Intensive LIS Internships

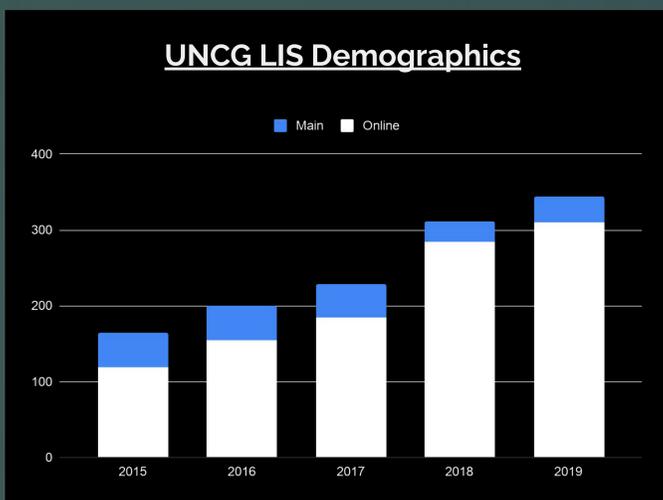
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Introduction

Intensive short term internships offer graduate students a hands on learning experience that reaches beyond the typical classroom experience. Through intensive internships such as the UNCG Alternative Spring Break, students are offered a unique opportunity to experience professional librarianship by shadowing librarians, engaging with library staff, performing practical tasks, and exploring the diverse professional roles available within librarianship.

What is Alternative Spring Break?

The LIS program started an Alternative Spring Break program in 2017 in order to give students opportunities to spend their spring break in a constructive, fun, and educational way while gaining practical experience (University of North Carolina at Greensboro, n.d.).



The Benefits of Internships

To Students

- Real world experience before graduation
- Builds confidence and combats imposter syndrome
- Clarity on work preferences and future career goals
- Networking opportunities with peers and mentors
- Allows students to explore the diversity of librarianship
- Higher GPA increases vs. non-intern cohorts
- Higher salary than peers
- Future employment potential at internship site

To Libraries/Librarians

- Delegate Tasks/Projects
- Fresh Research Perspective
- Pool of known and vetted potential applicants for job positions (see link for citations)

Our Experiences

Cassie

The UNCG LIS Alternative Spring break was a unique opportunity to get real world experience of working in an academic library while deciding on my specialization. My time at Jackson library showed me the diversity of positions within an academic library and the manner in which my skills and experiences can benefit the organization. By working closely with staff, I was able to work on two projects during the week that benefitted the staff as well as the library. Overall, it was a wonderful experience that I would encourage all LIS students to try!

Amy

The Alternative Spring Break program was a great opportunity for me to get a fresh perspective on my department and the work we do. Cassie's energy and ideas were extremely beneficial to our department. This program also enables us to help distance students gain library experience.

Recommendations

For Students

- Seek out unique opportunities like Alternative Spring Break
- Try an internship experience outside of your comfort zone
- Try short term internships or projects to bolster your resume and experience
- Utilize the expertise of your supervisor/mentor to broaden opportunities
- Maintain mentor/mentee relationship beyond the internship

For Librarians

- Keep a running list of potential projects for interns
- Consider trying an intensive internship if you feel too busy to do a semester-long internship
- Balance structured and unstructured time in your internships
- Make time for informal networking opportunities
- Stay in touch with your intern!

Additional Resources

Visit tinyurl.com/LISIntern for more details and list of references