

# Landing Your First Internship as an International Student

Presented by:

**UC San Diego Career Center  
International Services and Engagement Office  
UC San Diego Alumni Relations, GOLD -  
Graduates of the Last Decade**

January 23, 2025

HI EVERYONE! MY NAME IS:

# Derek Lim

Thank you for having me.



## **BACHELORS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS**

Class of 2019



## **STUDENT GROUPS**

Associated Students – AVP of Health and Wellness, Senator;  
Dragon Boat – Treasurer; Interfraternity Council – VP Finance; UIS



## **CURRENT POSITION**

Strategic Finance Associate (Non-Profit); Sr Specialist (College)



## **INTERNSHIPS**

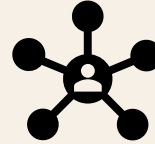
LPL Financial, First Republic Bank, Stratford Partners  
StoneSteps Real Estate, Bank of Cardiff



# Questions



Why are internships important for your career goals?



What is your ultimate goal for landing an internship?



What challenges might you face or have you faced as an international student?



Is it building a network, gaining experience, or positioning for a full time role?



What are you hoping to learn from the panelists today?



What skills and experience do you already have?  
*Alignment or expansion?*

HI EVERYONE! MY NAME IS:

# Feifan (Jasmine) Guan

Thank you for having me.



## **BACHELORS IN DATA SCIENCE & JT MATH-ECONOMICS**

Class of 2022



## **STUDENT GROUPS**

TMCSG, SUMS, TCG, DS3, AKP, ASCE



## **CURRENT POSITION**

Data Scientist II @ Verisk Analytics - Maplecroft



## **SUMMER 2021 INTERNSHIP**

Data Science Summer Associate



# Career Development Timeline

## 1st Year

- Summer classes
- Certification & hard skill development
  - Coursera
  - Hackerrank
  - Leetcode
- Pre-professional organization

## 2nd Year

- CPT Internship with AIP Mentor
  - LinkedIn
  - Handshake
  - Department Newsletter
- Research
  - RA
  - Publishable results

## 3rd Year

- Internship for Full-time Offer
  - Fall & Winter offer
- Application Tracker
  - Tailored resume
- Networking
  - LinkedIn Premium

## 4th Year

- Secure Return Offer
- Use Return Offer as leverage
- Maintain connection with Professors

# Internship Search Techniques



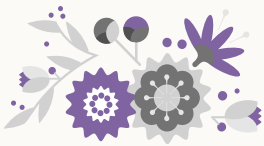
## Application Tracker & Resume Points

- Set weekly goals; track requirements & results
- Pick and choose experiences based on job description
- Add cover letter whenever option exists



## Navigate Sponsorship & Cultural Difference

- Research company & job description: “Visa sponsorship provided”
- Disclose status at end of interview: “CPT, OPT, H1B, Green card”
- Corporate culture: confident story telling; be specific about your plans for the future



## Network with Relevant People the Summer BEFORE

- Practice talking about your experiences, goals, vision for the field
- Maintain connection to secure referral
- Show your research on the person and be specific on how they can **HELP YOU**

HI EVERYONE! MY NAME IS:

# Diva Sansanwal

Thank you for having me.



## MASTERS IN BIOENGINEERING AT UCSD

Class of 2024



## STUDENT GROUPS

1. Volunteer at the Lafayette Elementary School - science teacher
2. Bioengineering Graduate Society - Community Development Chair



## CURRENT POSITION

Research Technician II at La Jolla Institute of Immunology



## SUMMER 2023 INTERNSHIP

Protein Sciences Intern at CytomX Therapeutics in South San Francisco



## 1st year of my masters in Bioengineering

- Finished mandatory courses
- Volunteering + Community Development - narrative
- Found a research lab - fits purpose
- **Academia vs. Industry?? - meeting with Jessica Wilson at the Career Services Center**

## March 2023 – Lookout for summer internships

- Networking with seniors
- UCSD International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO) - Alumni Employment Datasheet
- **Discussed 5 job descriptions with Jessica (revisit purpose)**
- **Shortlisted 3 internship positions**

## April and May 2023 – Applying

- Idea Engineering Center - CV/Resume Workshop
- 1-1 meetings with Jessica - tailored CV and cover letters
- LinkedIn Premium - Networking and Referrals

## Interview Process + Challenges

- Mock interviews with Jessica
- 3 rounds of interviews
- Gathered references (Professors)
- **CPT - ISEO**
- **My PI**
- **Relocating**

## Summer Internship at CytomX Therapeutics

- Networking with employees from departments I am interested in
- **Ask questions!!!**
- **Get answers, gather inspiration!!!**





# KeyTakeaways



## ISEO

- Looking for CPT friendly employers and help with the process?



## BEING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

- I have disclosed my status as an F-1 student visa holder at the very beginning.
- Finding **purpose** and **answers** is very important throughout your journey.



## HANDSHAKE / CAREER SERVICES CENTER

- Need guidance, resources, and 1-1 help?



## BE MORE HUMAN. BE MORE RELATABLE



## LINKEDIN PREMIUM

- Networking is important – Connect with anyone!



## CONNECT WITH ME ON LINKEDIN

[linkedin.com/in/diva-sansanwal-2686311b8](https://www.linkedin.com/in/diva-sansanwal-2686311b8)



# Q&A

## Thank You to Our Panelists

# Questions Regarding Career Development Work Authorization

Schedule a Career Coaching Appointment via Handshake! Contact the International Student and Engagement Office!

[ucsd.joinhandshake.com/edu](https://ucsd.joinhandshake.com/edu)

[icontact.ucsd.edu](https://icontact.ucsd.edu)

# Work Authorization



**iWorkshop: OPT/STEM OPT** (for F-1 students) will be offered every Wednesday, 2-3pm from Week 1-Week 10.



**iWorkshop: CPT** (for F-1 students) will be offered bi-weekly, every other Friday from 11am-12pm (weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)



**iWorkshop: J-1 Academic Training and On-Campus Employment** will be offered bi-weekly, every other Friday from 11am-12pm (weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)

Register on  
[iEvents.ucsd.edu](https://iEvents.ucsd.edu)