

UAS: International Student Panel Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

The April 9th UAS meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. The meeting was composed of two international students as they talked about their experiences as international students and the unique internship/recruiting process that they went through.

Attendees:

- Executive Board: All Present
- Lydia Zeng (luyizeng@ucsb.edu)
- Sally Ma (sal_ma@ucsb.edu)

Lydia's Experiences

During her part of the meeting she outline how:

- At first, she did not use networking events to help herself
- Did not have enough work or interview experiences, and believed that GPA was the most important aspect of networking
- As an international student, she cannot apply for mid-tier firms because of visa status, the two paths for her were local and big 4 firms
 - Visa restrictions also depends on the firm's policy for the year
- As an international she also found other areas of interest (stats minor) which gave her another aspect to improve her resume
 - She took summer classes to help with her course load
- Extracurricular experiences
 - Member of dancing team, DSP notetaker
- Goal: Practice English and interview skills
 - This would make her a stronger candidate during the interview process
 - Career Services also offers Mock Interviews for international students
- Benefits of being a tutor
 - English speaking skills
 - Public Speaking
 - Communication
 - Academic – helps ingrain the accounting knowledge from courses
 - Connections with professors
 - It's accounting relevant work
- Despite these, Lydia wanted more working experience
- Question: Would you want to stay in the U.S. or go back to the home country for the summer?
- Lydia: Staying in the U.S. and getting foreign experience is valuable, thus she thinks its better to stay in the U.S. for the summer
- Its beneficial to find a non-paid internship for the summer if nothing else is available

- As an event representative Lydia got experience in English speaking, teamwork, and it helps in being a financial assistant
- “Looking for horses while riding on a donkey” – A Chinese saying which can be interpreted as: If you want to get that A+ experience, you have to have a B+ experience to work up to, in other words, don’t be too picky with your working experiences
- After the summer, she attended every single networking event and social
- MTF and networking events are a lot less useful without a polished resume, so be sure to update your resume!
- As an international student, the firms worry that international students may not have good communication skills, so be sure to work on and exemplify your communication skills
- Key Takeaways
 - Networking is equally as important as grades
 - Anything that helps your soft skills is worth doing
 - Highly recommended to stay in the U.S. over summer
- Opportunities out there
 - Tutors and Graders program
 - UAS Board membership
 - Jobs on campus

Sally’s Experiences

- At the sophomore year she went into the
 - PWC case competition
 - MTF for the first time
 - SLP
 - CSSA, an campus student organization
 - Summer: Deloitte China
- Recommended to focus on experiences in the U.S. rather than at the home country
- Junior Year
 - Did not get any internships from MTF (despite extracurriculars and ~3.9 GPA)
 - Santa Barbara County
 - CPT (Curricular Practical Training)
 - Econ 193 and UCSB Ext. course Accounting seminar helped to make eligible for working
- Summer: SB County + Study for GMAT
 - Graduate School
- Ended up getting a full time offer with Deloitte during her 4th year, due to constantly working and putting in the effort
- Key takeaways
 - Know what you want and keep trying
 - Maintain a good mentality
- Have mock interviews before major interviews and send a thank-you email after an interview
- Show up early (before your interview)
- Resources for interviews

- TA/Professor
- Career Services
- Career Connection
- Friends

Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Adil Khan

Internal Vice President

Undergraduate Accounting Society

April 12, 2018

Date of Approval