



## Internship Experience Panel Meeting Minutes

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### Call to Order:

A UAS meeting was held on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 beginning at 6:36pm.

### Attendees:

- Executive Board: All Present
- Internship Experience Panelists:
  - Rachel Stumpf (Tax - PwC)
  - Felicia Fite (Audit - BDO)
  - Cally Ma (Audit - EY)
  - Vanessa Martinez (Tax - EY)
  - Jacky Hsu (Audit - BDO)

### Meeting Agenda:

The purpose of this panel was to bring together students who had already completed internships to give advice/tips on how students going into their internships can get the most out of it. Audience questions were answered during the panel.

Each of the panelists gave a brief introduction regarding which firm they interned with and which service line they were a part of.

**Q:** Vanessa, can you talk about working at Facebook?

**A:** Vanessa: The work was mainly done on the Facebook campus and doing forms. Each wing is named after a different theme and it was an interesting experience.

**Q:** How long were all of your internships?

**A:** They were generally all 8 weeks.

**Q:** Was there anything you would do to prepare for internships?

**A:** Jacky: They don't expect you to know anything, so preparation isn't necessary, they treat you as if you're there to learn. **Don't be afraid to ask questions.** Don't take hours to wait around and ask a question.

Rachel: To add onto that, in a Tax group, you are in a room with other interns and are able to ask them questions.

Cally: It is useful to know some excel tips just to make things go faster.

**Q:** What's it like working in larger vs smaller offices?

**A:** Felicia: You get to know everybody in smaller offices and things become more close-knit.

**Q:** Do you recommend any accounting specific classes that have helped you?

**A:** Vanessa: Nothing really helped too much, but certain things such as deferred taxes in 136 are helpful

Rachel: 136 series were somewhat helpful for tax.

Jacky: It's mostly just general knowledge of accounting terms. I did a mini bank reconciliation but there's no need to know super advanced accounting.

Felicia: They can also help you walking through the basics.

**Q:** If you could go back and change something about your internship what would you change?

**A:** Felicia: Go in and meet as many people as you can regardless of whether they are in your industry.

Rachel: It's very important to network, make sure to talk to everyone in all industry tax groups.

Vanessa: I also third that, you may not think that people would like to spend time with an intern, but employees enjoy going out for coffee and networking with everyone.

Cally: Besides asking stuff about your specific service line, asking about broader questions like work-life balance are good to ask. Some of you may have days where you are unassigned and that's a good time to go talk to some people and see what's new.

Jacky: One thing that I feel like I could've done better is to pay more attention to the tasks at hand regardless of how boring they were.

**Q:** Were you ever feeling pressured to work fast?

**A:** Jacky: At the end of my internship I realized that the most important thing is to learn and understand what you're doing rather than trying to get the work done fast.

Cally: If you feel pressured you can always ask staff to help.

Felicia: This is the time to take your time because as an intern they want to keep you as much as you want to be there.

**Q:** How to best succeed during your internship?

**A:** Rachel: We had to choose a data set to showcase. People in charge of this project told us that if we had free time, it was good to master programs that were given. For example, we learned how to use Alteryx. So making sure to watch the technology videos and immerse yourself in your work helped.

Felicia: I carried a notepad around to have it be as a to-do list. It's good to keep track of everything.

Vanessa: If their giving you instructions and you aren't writing it down; it may be as good as it going in one ear and out the other.

**Q:** Was anything stressful?

**A:** Felicia: Being in a new office and having to meet a bunch of new people was a little stressful.

Jacky: Generally, everyone is very understanding that you are in an internship.

Rachel: Steep learning curve for some things, but it's okay to ask questions.

Vanessa: Some stress was self-imposed, but at an internship you just need to do the work they give you and be nice.

**Q:** Did SLP's affect or help?

**A:** Rachel: SLP's weren't a huge factor, people in the office were a bigger factor. SLP's were all fun though.

Cally: They were all pretty great.

Felicia: The SLP's are only a few days so it's not a huge factor, different locations have different industries so it's up to you to figure it out.

**Q:** Was the service line that you chose what you expected/did it meet your expectations?

**A:** Felicia: I had little expectations going into it, but you learn as you go and if it fits that's great

Rachel: I was only out at a client for two days out of my internship.

Cally: Audit definitely expects its employees to be driving a lot.

Vanessa: I had no expectations because tax internships don't get talked about too much.

Jacky: I think all my expectations were met; I was in the office for maybe one week out of my entire internship. I really liked the team that I was working with, so I asked to stay on the internship for a little longer.

**Q:** What's the work at client sites like?

**A:** Felicia: Same as with the office, it's just easier to communicate at the client site.

Jacky: I got to do the inventory count and I thought that was pretty interesting. The work is pretty much the same, it just varies by industry.

**Q:** What did you guys wear when working?

**A:** Cally: Business casual but jeans are okay.

Felicia: With some casual clients, casual is the way to go. There's certain days when you do need to wear business professional.

**Q:** Why is business professional even used?

**A:** It's to see how well you can present yourself.

**Q:** How'd you approach internships without SLP's?

**A:** Vanessa: I went to MTF, and then applied.

Jacky: MTF is the gateway to meeting all these people and whether or not this is the environment you'd want to work in.

Cally: It's important to come to UAS meetings as it's easier to meet with recruiters and they can really remember you.

Felicia: A lot of firms do have socials and other events outside of MTF, which are a great way to meet people without MTF.

**Q:** What are the backroom conversations about students like, what got people interested?

**A:** Felicia: For BDO, we had the iPad login system where we put in the feedback and went back to it.

Jacky: Feedback determines if you get the internship.

Rachel: Interns left once these discussions happened, but we are able to recommend interns through a google form.

**Q:** Any embarrassing stories?

**A:** Felicia: One guy was a prankster, would ask interns to do dumb stuff. One time he asked an intern to count parking spaces, stuff like that. Another thing is, don't leave laptop/computer unlocked.

Jacky: One of the things was that the intern was asked to count people going into/out of office.

Vanessa: If you are 21 during your internship be responsible. One guy threw up on a partner's wife. Also when going to Orlando (Disneyworld), the one thing you cannot do is drink.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm.

*Adil Khan*

Internal Vice President  
Undergraduate Accounting Society

**March 18, 2019**

Date of Approval