

Northwestern Career Advancement

Consulting Internship Recruitment Preparation Timeline for Study Abroad Candidates

Northwestern Career Advancement is available to support you during the entire consulting internship recruitment preparation, application, and interview process. Below is a timeline to help you prepare before and while you are abroad.

Early Summer Quarter

Meet with your [career adviser](#) to kickstart your job search

Hint: Your adviser is available to meet with you via phone, Skype, or in-person.

Figure out why you're interested in consulting

Hint: "Because you're good at problem solving" is too surface level.

Take time during the summer to research the field, reflect on your skills and values, and decide if consulting is the career path for you.

Confirm that you're receiving NCA's consulting emails via Handshake

Hint: Select your name > Career Interests > Select Human Resources, Management Consulting, and Scientific & Technological Consulting

During fall quarter, the consulting industry team will send weekly consulting newsletters, which will help you track upcoming application deadlines.

Read *Case in Point* by Marc Cosentino

Hint: CQ Interactive is a great resource for you to apply the concepts about which you read.

Find a case interview partner and start practicing

Hint: Practice casing via Skype to realistically simulate a virtual interview.

Polish your mental math skills

Hint: Mental math is a core component of case interviewing, so it's important to be fast and accurate.

Subscribe to news sites

Hint: TheSkimm, Morning Brew, CNN News Alerts, and other apps/daily digests are a good way to stay up-to-date on current events, which will be brought up during the interview process.

Network!

Hint: Networking is a great opportunity to learn more about the consulting field and specific firms, which will inform your application materials.

Don't forget to send a professional thank you email within 48 hours.

Late Summer Quarter

Tailor your resume and cover letters to consulting opportunities

Hint: A resume can't be used for both finance and consulting.

Make sure that your application materials are both industry and company-specific. Your [career adviser](#) can help you craft your application materials to ensure that you are sharing results or potential impact of any professional or student group experiences. Be sure to include your upcoming study abroad experience.

Engage in formal conversations via Skype and phone

Hint: Practicing professional conversations with family or friends via Skype and phone might seem awkward, but will help you feel more comfortable during a virtual interview.

By practicing formal openings and closings to Skype conversations, you can make the beginning and end of an interview feel more natural. Utilize these interactions to practice discussing current events and sharing your opinions.

Sharpen your case interviewing skills

Hint: Practice mental math, research domestic statistics, and become familiar with at least one of these business frameworks: SWOT analysis, Profits=Revenues-Costs, Porter's Five Forces, Value Chain Analysis, and 4 P's of Marketing.

Look at the U.S. Census to become familiar with the U.S. population and average household size. Remember to practice showing your work and thought process through a screen.

Practice behavioral interview questions

Hint: Sharing your professional narrative and answers via Skype or phone will help you simulate a real interview situation.

Remember to incorporate your study abroad experience in your professional narrative. You do not need to apologize for why you are abroad because it is a great opportunity; rather share what you hope to learn while abroad.

Keep Networking!

Hint: Deeply engaging with at least two alumni per firm will increase your likelihood of having an advocate in the recruiting process.

Don't forget those thank you notes!

Fall Quarter

Read consulting emails from NCA

Apply to consulting internship opportunities in Handshake

Hint: All deadlines are subject to change so apply as early as possible (reminder: application deadlines are listed in Central Time).

Continue practicing case and behavioral interviewing

Hint: The more you practice, the more your interview will feel like a natural conversation.

Before your first interview, review NCA's [Best Practices for Consulting Virtual Interviewing \(PDF\)](#)

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Hint: Secure a quiet location with a strong Wi-Fi connection to conduct a virtual interview.