Applying for Internships in School Psychology: Don’t Step on the Landmines!

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Internships… They’re Kind of a Big Deal

Good Choice → Bad Choice

Internship = Degree
Not so Fast!
Roadblocks to Internship

- Must be Approved by Program
- NASP & APA Requirements
- APA Accreditation?
- Few Resources Available
- It Can be Expensive
- Lots of Applicants, Not Enough Spots
- Internship Variations

Avoiding the Landmines
Finding Internships

- Program Relationships
- Ask Previous Students
- NASP & APA Resources
- Start Looking Early
- Life Beyond APPIC
- Don’t Assume it Doesn’t Exist

Network, Network, Network!

State Dept of Ed Website
Finding Internships

Avoid the Mismatch!

- What Experiences do You Want
- What Experiences do You Already Have
- Where do You Want to Live
- How Much Can You Afford to Not Make

Do Your Research!

Applying to Sites
Be Organized!

Don’t wait until the last minute to calculate your hours or update your CV

Not a suggestion!

deadline

Do your Research (and show it!)

Apply to Several Sites
Know Your Budget!

Be Unique

- CV
- Cover letter
- Essays
CV

Get Examples

Think about Order of Information

Collaborate with your Cohort (if possible)

Cover Letters

(you can use a template, carefully)

Paragraph 1: The Intro
- Specific Program/Track to which you’re applying
- Who You Are (what grad school, what year, etc.)

http://time2track.com/appic-internship-application-cover-letters
Paragraph 2 (and Maybe 3 & 4) : How does this program match your goals and interests?

- State Goals
- State Why those are your Goals
- Make a Statement of Fit
- Explain the Statement of Fit

Final Paragraph: The Summary

- Reiterate:
  - Statement of Fit
  - What is Most Appealing about the Site
  - Your Goals
- Thank You, Looking Forward to Hearing from You/Meeting with You
Essays
(yes, that’s plural)

1. Autobiographical: Get Attention Quickly, Don’t Overshare, Not your CV
2. Case Conception: Match, Match, Match
3. Diversity: Think Broadly, Demonstrate Self-Awareness
4. Research Experience: I Don’t Want to Read your Dissertation Abstract

http://time2track.com/making-your-autobiographical-essay-unforgettable

Savage Chickens by Doug Savage

WHEN NOT TO EDIT
DEAR JOHN LETTERS
'I DON'T NOT LOVE YOU'?
NICE DOUBLE NEGATIVE

RANSOM NOTES
OH YOU WANT MONEY? SO THAT'S WHAT "RANZUM" WAS-supposed to mean

TATTOOS
IS THAT AN APOSTROPHE OR A MOLE? I HOPE IT'S THE LATTER.

www.savagechickens.com
Letters of Recommendation

- **Meet with writers beforehand**
  - Ask them if they are willing to write a **GOOD** letter
  - 1 Page +
  - **Supervisors** over Practitioners
  - Must have **first-hand** knowledge of your work
  - Give them enough **time**

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**Interviews**

I should have worn a suit
Did I use his correct title?
I left my CV in the car...
I should be taking notes

How many jokes is he gonna make?

At least he showed up & was on time
Wow them with your Skills & Experience ... in a good way

Who are You?

I have the necessary Koalafications

...in a minute or less

...assuming I know little – nothing about you
I came. I saw.
I complained.

Stay Positive!
Anticipate Questions

Come With Questions

Practice & Prepare!

It’s OK to ask about Salary & Benefits
Follow Up
(Remember Me?)
- Thank You
- Additional ?s
- Clarifications/Additions
- Contact Information

Choosing the Right Internship For You
It’s All About the Right Fit

• Training Experiences
  • Orientation
  • Supervision

• Skills to Strengthen
  • Geography and $
  • Future Goals

What Interviewers Look for

- Has Enough Training to Not Need Constant Supervision
- Range of Skills
- Knowledge of Best Practice
- Not Power-Hungry
- Highly Organized
- Experience in a School Setting
- Doesn’t Hijack the Interview
- Gets Along Well With Others
- Shares School’s Philosophy or Vision
How to Stand Out in a **Good** Way

- Know Something About the Site
- Have School-based Training
- Answer Questions based on Personal Experiences
- Be Knowledgeable – Literature & Practice
- Give Direct Answers – Keep it Succinct
- Be Confident, but not Cocky
- Be Enthusiastic!

How to Stand Out in a **Bad** Way

- Only Talk about One Topic
- Make it Your Interview of Them
- Give Vague or Ambiguous Responses
- Avoid Eye Contact
- Make the Interviewer Question if You’re Taking Notes or Checking Facebook
- Crack Lots of Jokes
- Give Drawn-out Responses
- Show Holes in Your Training
- Have a Superior Attitude
Thank You!

http://www.hdc.lsuhsc.edu/tiers/index.php
http://www.hdc.lsuhsc.edu/laspic/index.php

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# A Few Internship Resources

- **General Information**
  - [http://www.nasponline.org/students/documents/Selecting_a_School_Psychology_Internship_Tips_for_Graduate_Students.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/students/documents/Selecting_a_School_Psychology_Internship_Tips_for_Graduate_Students.pdf)

- **CVs and Essays**
  - [http://www.nasponline.org/students/Curriculum%20Vitae.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/students/Curriculum%20Vitae.pdf)
  - [http://time2track.com/making-your-autobiographical-essay-unforgettable](http://time2track.com/making-your-autobiographical-essay-unforgettable)
  - [http://www.pdi-online.com/Tackling_AAPI_Essay_1.htm](http://www.pdi-online.com/Tackling_AAPI_Essay_1.htm)
  - [http://www.pdi-online.com/Tackling_APPIC_%20Essay_2.htm](http://www.pdi-online.com/Tackling_APPIC_%20Essay_2.htm)

- **Interviews**
  - [http://www.nasponline.org/students/interviewing.pdf](http://www.nasponline.org/students/interviewing.pdf)