



# INSTITUTE OF APPLIED AGRICULTURE

## Internship Search Self-Assessment

Your internship is a key component of your hands-on education. It provides you with solid, resume-building professional experiences; helps you develop new skills; gives you insights into potential careers; and builds your professional networks.

To help you narrow your internship search and determine the best fit for you, please complete this internship search self-assessment. As you complete this guide, be honest with yourself, but remain open to possibilities. You will share this completed sheet with your academic advisor and use it to help discuss the internship goals that you and your internship supervisor will eventually agree upon.

Due: before Spring Break

Submission: email it to your academic advisor

Points: 10 (applied toward your grade in INAG 299A)

Internship Goals	
<p><b>Technical (Hard) Skills</b></p> <p><i>Be specific as to what skills you hope to learn or hone. For example: operate or use certain equipment or software; apply fertilizers or pesticides; promote via social media; budget using a spreadsheet; identify diseases or insect problems; manage irrigation; design something using drone technology, etc.</i></p> <p><i>What hard skills do you want to attain or develop?</i></p>	
<p><b>Interpersonal (Soft) Skills</b></p> <p><i>Improving your communication skills and professionalism is just as important as developing technical skills. You can accomplish this by showing up on time every day, managing a project, training someone, handling face-to-face sales, working with customers, giving a presentation, writing an article or blog post, completing a report or maintaining appropriate records.</i></p> <p><i>What soft skills do you hope to develop?</i></p>	

<p><b>Background Knowledge</b></p> <p><i>We recommend that interns gain substantial knowledge about their particular industry and how businesses or nonprofits operate. Consider the variables that go into an operation: different employee functions, roles of teams/crews, how the business generates income, and drivers of success.</i></p> <p><i>What background knowledge do you hope to gain?</i></p>	
<p><b>Professional Connections</b></p> <p><i>Internships are the ideal time to begin creating your professional networks, building relationships, and finding industry mentors. Your networks can include other students, entrepreneurs, technical specialists, etc.</i></p> <p><i>What professional connections do you hope to make?</i></p>	
<p><b>Internship Considerations</b></p>	
<p><b>Industry</b></p> <p><i>Golf course, landscape company, research lab, veterinarian office, equine facility, organic farm, farmers market, nursery, seed company, etc.</i></p>	
<p><b>Geographic Location</b></p> <p><i>Where will you be living this summer? Do you have transportation? Are you willing to live in another location? Will you need to have housing provided? What other practical considerations are important to you?</i></p>	
<p><b>Work Setting</b></p> <p><i>Do you want to work outside most of the time or indoors? Do you prefer an office type setting? Are you willing to travel to various locations or drive to different sites?</i></p>	
<p><b>Work Style</b></p> <p><i>Do you prefer to work as part of a team or independently? Do you prefer to have a set list of chores to follow each day, or determine what needs to be done on your own? Do you like to show up early to organize your thoughts and work, or do you prefer to just walk in and go?</i></p>	