



## National Museum of Mathematics Summer College Internship Program

Each summer, the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) welcomes eight to twelve college interns. MoMath is highly selective in this process, requiring a high level of enthusiasm for math, a high degree of mathematical competency, and strong interpersonal and social skills. Interns who complete the program gain a strong level of knowledge and experience in what it takes to operate a successful business, as well as being exposed to a variety of interesting programs, lectures, and people. This summer, the Museum is particularly pleased to be hosting the MOVES conference, honoring mathematical luminaries John Conway, Elwyn Berlekamp, and Richard Guy (all of whom are expected to be in attendance).

The summer college internship is a full-time program, with an expected commitment of five days per week. Since the Museum is a seven-day institution, it is likely that some weekend days or occasional evenings will be included in lieu of some weekdays — but MoMath works hard to honor stated preferences in setting the schedule. The program typically includes time spent in three places: on the floor of the Museum, in the retail shop, and at MoMath's administrative offices. Requests to focus on any one of those three areas will be seriously considered, but some amount of experience in each area is important in gaining the full value of the internship experience. In the absence of any particular request, time spent on the floor of the Museum will be about twice the amount of time spent in either of the other two locations.

Previous summer interns have worked on a variety of projects, including designing an attendance tracking report for the Museum, helping run a conference for over 200 people, working as counselors in MoMath's summer camp, attending off-site festivals, and helping run several monthly presentation series. This is all in addition to the things one might expect from working in a museum: helping visitors on the floor interact with the exhibits; providing advice and assistance to those wishing to make a purchase in the retail shop, and helping to administer the Museum's many programs and services. Note that the program considers the particular strengths of each intern: those with a strong IT background may be asked to work on technical projects, those with camp experience may be asked to act as counselors, etc. There is also a lot of flexibility — the Museum staff provides a list of potential projects, and each intern is given the opportunity to select the project or projects that will be most meaningful to him or her.

Approximately once per week, the interns come together as a group, to share their experiences and to learn from each other. A member of the permanent staff or a visiting guest is often invited to share his/her own experiences and answer intern questions. MoMath staff members are a skilled team, including a number of math PhDs and others with impressive credentials in their fields; the weekly meetings are a high point of the program for most interns.

MoMath believes its summer internship program provides a valuable experience for college students, and welcomes all candidates. Interested parties should visit [collegeinternapp.momath.org](http://collegeinternapp.momath.org) to download an application. Note that internships are unpaid.