

MoMath Summer College Internship Program

Each summer, the National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) welcomes a group of 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.

The summer college internship is a full-time program, with an expected commitment of five days per week. The program typically includes time spent in a variety of places and roles: on the floor of the Museum, in the summer camp, in the retail shop, and at MoMath's administrative offices. Experience in each area is important in gaining the full value of the internship experience. Generally, time spent on the floor of the Museum will comprise about half of the summer internship.

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 300 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 — during the time spent in the administrative office, a list of potential projects is provided, with each intern being given the opportunity to select the project or projects that are 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 meeting the stated criteria. Interested parties should visit collegeinternapp.momath.org to download an application. Note that internships are unpaid and will include some number of weekend days (although there are always two days off each week).