

Carnegie Mellon University

Africa

Internship FAQs: corporate partners

When does the internship program start?

- CMU-Africa students must complete an internship during the break between their first and second year of studies.
- The duration is 3 months or 13 weeks. The period corresponds with the end of the academic year and the start of the following year, typically from mid-May to mid-August.

Which companies usually hire our interns?

- Public or private companies across almost every sector that have running operations in IT and/or engineering and have the following characteristics:
 - Provides a good learning environment for a graduate student.
 - Evaluates the students' skills for potential future recruitment.
 - Designates someone to supervise and mentor the student during his/her placement.

How much should I offer as a monthly stipend?

- For internships in Rwanda the minimum recommended monthly net stipend is \$350 (converted to local currency).
- For internships outside Rwanda, stipends are typically higher especially when students incur accommodation and transportation costs associated with their internship placement.
- Given that this is a competitive market, many companies pay higher stipends in the range of \$500-\$2,000 (net).

What is a good internship assignment?

- At the start of an internship, students will have completed one year of their master's degree program and will be pursuing one or more of the six areas of specialization: IT entrepreneurship, Energy systems, Data science, Software Engineering, Networks and Cybersecurity.
- Examples of appropriate tasks are: development of a new ICT solution, market analysis of new products and/or services, participation in the solving of an ICT problem in the organization, a cyber-security assessment of the organization.
- Examples of inappropriate tasks are: fixing employees' network problems, clerical support, or providing PC help desk support.

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How can I be guaranteed that the intern will perform well?

- There is no guarantee, however, responses from our survey to 2018 internship providers tell us that 87% of interns performed better than previous interns, 100% would provide internships again in 2019, and 92% would consider the internship candidate for a full-time opportunity at their organization.