Student Internship FAQs

Why does CMU-Africa require students to do an internship?

An internship provides an opportunity to complement your academic learning with practical experience and can help you figure out if the concentration you are pursuing is the right path for you. During internships, students put their learning to use, develop new skills, and get insight into workplace culture. Internships also allow students to build a professional network as they prepare to join or return to the workforce. Internships are a mandatory requirement to graduate from the MSIT program.

When does an internship have to be done?

The typical internship period takes place during the summer break after the first year of the master's program, roughly from mid-May to mid-August. The exact start time varies according to the end of spring term exams. The internship must end before classes resume in the second fall semester.

While some students may opt to take a semester off during Fall or Spring to do their internship, it is not the recommended course. Students who are considering that route should first consult their faculty advisor.

What is the time requirement for an internship?

You must spend at least 40 hours weekly at the organization site for a duration of 3 months or 13 weeks. For this reason, an internship cannot be done concurrently while enrolled in classes.

What support does Career Services offer for internships?

Career Services supports students by providing guidance through the internship process. An internship information session is held in the first fall semester for incoming students. We help students with writing a professional resume and cover letter and preparing for an interview.

Does CMU-Africa have events that can help in my internship search?

The university hosts various events through the year to foster relationships between industry and students, including company information sessions and guest lectures. In the spring semester, we host an annual internship fair for organizations interested in offering internships to students. These events should only make up part of your internship search.
When should I begin searching for an internship?

Internship application procedures and deadlines vary based on organization, location, and popularity of a given internship. Deadlines to apply for popular international internship programs can be months before the start date of the internship. Students are encouraged to create an internship search strategy from the start of the program by doing research on various internship programs and capitalizing on existing professional and personal networks as well as networking sites such as LinkedIn to engage former employers, colleagues and university industry partners.