

JOB AND INTERNSHIP SEARCH DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

FREQUENTLY ASKED JOB/INTERNSHIP QUESTIONS ANSWERED

April 8, 2020

Is Career Services open?

Yes, all services are being provided virtually! [Resume reviews](#) are being done by email, [appointments](#) are happening via phone/video chat, and [events](#) are taking place webinar-style.

Are employers still hiring?

There are opportunities in even the toughest situations. Industries with the potential to thrive in our current environment are: tech companies, accounting (it's still tax season), online learning companies, pharmacies and healthcare suppliers, digital entertainment and video gaming companies (what else is there to do) and food/grocery delivery services. **Over 9,000 active job postings in [Handshake](#) right now** (tip: type "remote" or "virtual" in the search bar).

Will my summer internship be [canceled](#)?

Maybe. Feel free to reach out to your employer contact if you have been offered a summer internship but haven't heard from them in a while. Ask how the employer is doing, reiterate your continued interest in interning with them and communicate your flexibility and comfort with working remotely/using virtual platforms.

Should I even try to get a(nother) summer internship?

Yes! It is still too early to give up on getting a summer 2020 internship. Many employers will be posting their remote/virtual internships over the next month. Keep searching and applying on [Handshake](#), LinkedIn, company websites and [industry-specific](#) job boards. Apply to at least 20-25 internships.

If I can't get a summer internship, how else can I gain experience?

Doing a [freelance](#) job or [micro-internship](#), building career-readiness skills through [LinkedIn Learning](#) tutorials and leveraging research papers/projects for class to understand real-world problems and interact with experts are valuable alternatives.

How can I network while social distancing?

There are several [at-home networking strategies](#) you can use. Talk to your faculty about your career interests, find Mason alumni on LinkedIn, use the peer-to-peer messaging feature in Handshake, invite a former supervisor to a video chat coffee break or participate in virtual career [events](#).

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Should I broaden my job search to opportunities not in my original plan, just to make sure I end up with something?

Yes. Think of it as an experiment. Be open minded. You might be surprised by what you discover about yourself and career paths that might be a good fit.

What if I lost my job and I just need quick money to pay my living expenses/tuition?

Try to [freelance](#), or use company websites, [Handshake](#) and [remote job sites](#) to find opportunities.

How can I best prepare for a [virtual interview](#)?

Practice. Practice. Practice. Video record your responses to common interview questions using [InterviewSteam](#) and send your interview link to careers@gmu.edu, a friend or mentor for feedback. Of course, you can also schedule a live video practice interview appointment through Handshake.

Is Career Services doing anything extra to support the Class of 2020?

Absolutely. In addition to the [Handshake](#) job database, career counseling [appointments](#) and virtual employer networking events already offered, Career Services is hosting a weekly [Job Search 2020 Live Chat Support Group](#) and series of relevant and timely workshops as part of [Career Launch](#). A virtual career fair for May/June is also in the works!

What career support is provided even after graduation?

Mason continues to be here for you! You maintain access to Career Services even after you graduate. As an alum, you can still use [Handshake](#) to find openings, make appointments for job search assistance or graduate school preparation and participate in employer networking events and career fairs.

Didn't see your question?

Email us at careers@gmu.edu or call us at 703-993-2370.