

International Students – Internship Options

While many students are interested in pursuing an internship option, it is not required for you to participate in an internship as part of your studies. However, we understand that an internship can be beneficial and we will offer our support in your pursuit of one.

Students should plan to take the internship toward the end of their degree, when they will have gained the broadest possible training. In addition, immigration regulations require that students will have completed at least one academic year of study.

Those interested in the 1 unit internship option after they have completed their first academic year would take the following steps:

- Review the OIS website for details about pursuing [CPT \(Curricular Practical Training\)](#).
- Find a company or institution who wishes to hire you and get an offer letter
- Work with your program administrators to register for 1 unit of RSCI596 Curricular Practical Training
- Either make an appointment to come by the Reg Sci office or scan and email the CPT form for the Reg

Sci program administrators to sign it

- Submit the form and offer letter to OIS
- Throughout your internship, demonstrate professionalism: dress professionally, arrive on time, stay away from your cell phone and personal email, be attentive and responsive your supervisors. You are an ambassador of our program and we want you to make a great impression not only for us, but so that you might be offered full-time employment
- Each month, check in with Dr. Richmond to let her know how the internship is progressing
- At the end of the internship, submit to her a 1-page paper, detailing what you learned

Due to visa issues, some international students may experience challenges with finding internships in the United States. Individuals without permanent residence in the U.S. or those with limited written, verbal, or communication skills in English may find they have trouble securing an internship during the program, especially if they expect the internship to lead to full-time employment.

International students wishing to gain internship experience must pursue the opportunity on an individual basis. By taking the internship near the end of the program, students will have a better chance of proving themselves as effective candidates for career in Regulatory Science. While we are vigilant about assisting students with finding companies who are interested in providing internships, students must also be proactive in looking for paid or unpaid internships in an academic, clinical, or industry setting.

For further questions regarding the internship option, please contact your program manager at 323-442-3501 or regsci@usc.edu