



Advice for Future NODA Interns!

"Set goals for yourself and make those goals known. The summer internship goes by SO quickly, so be honest and challenge yourself. Ask for professional development opportunities you want to have at that institution, and meet as many professionals as you can. You never know what will happen, and it is such a great way to meet others in the field."

"GO AWAY! The best thing you can do is get out of your state. Think about your long term goals. Are you at a large institution and plan on going to a large institution after you finish your program? Great, but try a small institution for your internship. Gaining varied experiences will only benefit the framework in which you make decisions for your professional future."

"Get involved and visit different areas of campus over the summer- don't be afraid to jump in. Stay on campus on the weekends and make connections with the other interns. Explore the city/community you are in. Ask questions."

"Take chances. I applied to schools only in states that I had never been to before. Use this opportunity to push yourself out of your comfort zone and try something new. My experience completely changed who I am for the better both personally and professionally."

"Soak up every experience you get. I am so thankful for my experience as a NODA Intern. I not only feel prepared for my job search experience, but for my life as a professional. I have the NODA Internship process to thank for that."

"Be vocal about what experiences you want. I often simply had to ask for a meeting with someone, or to sit in on a committee meeting I was interested in, and I always got a yes. Your host wants you to experience as much as you can, but only you know precisely what experiences you are looking for."

"Keep an open mind about the internship process and the institutions you are applying to for your experience. Be strategic about where you would like to intern, and create your own list of factors that are important to you when making this decision Write out a pro and con list immediately following your interviews because then the interview is fresh in your mind Apply to a city/institution you have never visited"

"An absolutely wonderful experience. Do your best to make connections outside of the internship. I did so and I am now working full-time!"

"You get out of the experience what you put into the experience. Ask questions, troubleshoot, and have fun."

"Think strategically about what you want to take away from your NODA internship. If you are interested in having greater autonomy and creative license in your internship, make sure you ask your potential supervisors about that in your interview. One of my priorities was to work at a small, liberal arts college and I got even more out of that experience than I expected. When working with such a small student affairs staff, I had opportunities to take on tasks and projects that are outside of the traditional Orientation, but were great professional development opportunities for me."

"Spend time narrowing down your criteria BEFORE looking through all of the NODA internship opportunities listed - the number of sites can be overwhelming, but when you factor in your criteria (location, dates you can start working/need to return to grad school, pay, amenities, how many interns you want to work with), it helps narrow down your search."

"Trust the process. It works, it may be time consuming but it is worth it in the end."