

IU Innovation and Commercialization Office Student Internship Program

The IU Innovation and Commercialization Office (ICO) works closely with faculty, industry and the entrepreneurial community in Indiana to take IU innovations to market. ICO has an internship opportunity available for students interested in professional development related to intellectual property, marketing and communications, licensing, and startups.

Internship Program

The ICO internship program provides education and hands-on experience for graduate students that includes formal training in licensing in innovation and commercialization, marketing, intellectual property protection, licensing, and contracts with projects that expose the intern to the day-to-day workings of a university technology transfer office. The training and education received will help prepare students for careers outside of the research lab in areas like innovation and commercialization, business development, economic development, and patent law.

Program Goals

- To provide educational opportunities to gain exposure in the 1) process of intellectual property management, particularly in a university setting, and/or 2) the process and facets of marketing & communication
- To provide opportunities for interns to improve analytical and writing skills.
- To provide guidance on a potential career in innovation and commercialization, patent prosecution, or marketing and communications.

Intern Responsibilities:

Over the course of the program interns may participate in any number of the following activities:

- Write marketing briefs (short non-confidential summaries of technologies)
- Conduct prior-art analysis (an examination of all information that has been made available, in any form, to the public that may affect the patentability of a technology)
- Perform market research and analysis (a comprehensive report of the market potential of a technology, including a description of manufacturing capabilities/costs, distribution channels, any established proof of concept as well as the benefits of the technology vs. currently available technologies)
- Write technology assessments
- Faculty outreach for new innovations
- Connect with potential industry partners
- Startup pitch deck presentations
- Attend intern training sessions and activities as well as office-wide meetings

Candidate Qualifications:

- Have a minimum of a bachelor's degree, preferably with some course work or experience in a technical background such as in life sciences, the physical sciences and/or engineering.
- Written and verbal fluency in English.
- Must be pursuing or have received an advanced degree in law, business, science or engineering.
- Have an interest in innovation and commercialization, marketing and/or intellectual property as a career goal.

If interested in the internship program please send a resume or CV with cover letter expressing interest to ico@iu.edu by February 1. The internship program will start in May. Any applicants that submit their resume or CV after the deadline may be considered if there are any additional spots.:

IU Innovation and Commercialization Office
 1220 Waterway Blvd.
 Indianapolis, IN 46202
ico@iu.edu

Please contact ico@iu.edu with any questions.

Frequently asked questions

What kind of training sessions will interns need to attend?

To get interns familiar with innovation and commercialization in a university setting, interns will participate in training sessions in the following areas:

- Overview of innovation and commercialization in a university
- Navigating the ICO systems and processes
- Technology assessment for commercialization and potential patent protection
- Intellectual property and overview of the patent prosecution process
- Market analysis and marketing university innovations
- Licensing university innovations and managing industry relationships
- Startup and entrepreneurial considerations

What experience can interns gain as an ICO intern?

Each intern experience is different, and what each intern gets out of the program is strongly tied to what one puts into it. Core focus areas include evaluation of new technologies, including scientific, market, and intellectual property research as well as legal contract negotiation and some experience with patent law.

What jobs can interns get after my internship?

This internship will provide valuable experience in a range of activities to gain skills that can be applied in several career paths. ICO staff are committed to assisting you find a profession that is right for you. Interns can go on to pursue careers in a wide range of fields like innovation and commercialization, patent law, consulting, medical writing, and banking. Interns may even find permanent positions within ICO or other university technology transfer offices.

Will interns need my advisor's permission to participate in the program?

Yes, ICO wants to ensure that both interns and their supervisors understand the time commitment and requirements of the program.

How much time will interns need to commit to the program?

Interns will be required to work 10-20 hours per week in the summer and 5-10 hours per week during the fall and spring. Interns will be expected to commit for the summer with the possibility of extending up to 12 months.

Will interns be required to work on site or can they work remotely?

ICO commercialization managers and staff work a hybrid schedule. Interns are expected to be in-person for training sessions and certain office-wide activities. In-office training might be heavy in the first couple weeks, and other in-office activities might be spread out through the program. Most work with the commercialization managers and staff can be done remotely, though some in-person work may be encouraged at times.