



HTH Internships

"The Real You Meets the Real World"

High Tech High offers many opportunities for students to learn more about themselves as they explore various industries and professions. This process of making informed life choices is crucial as students connect their values, interests and skills to the world beyond school. Options at HTH for learning about "the real world" are described below.

Site Visits

High Tech High students have visited many workplaces in the San Diego area, including General Atomics, Hughes Network Systems, the University of San Diego, the Stichler Group, Nissan Design International, Pacific Beach Middle School, the Neurosciences Institute, the Jenna Druck Foundation and Sea World. During these visits, students are divided into small groups to meet with individual employees for two to three hours. Students must be prepared to ask questions, observe, reflect and provide feedback on their experience.



Class Presentations

Students meet informally with local professionals during classes, advisory groups or community meetings. Interested students are selected to research and prepare questions, then conduct an interview for the audience in talk show format.

Informational Interviews

Students may also set up a personal meeting with a professional to learn about his/her experience, roles, responsibilities, education, training, rewards, challenges and future directions at work. The HTH Academic Internship Coordinator assists students in setting up an informational interview. Students are encouraged to thoroughly research the organization before they interview. The more prior knowledge they possess, the more useful their informational interview will be.

"I'm looking into all sorts of internships here. It's great to explore the different fields that you want to get into."

Thuy Lee
Grade 11

I had very locked-in job descriptions, and what I realized is, some of the students came with some special skills and gifts and I could utilize them in ways that I wasn't even thinking about.

Mary Lynn Mack,
Director of
Volunteers,
San Diego Natural
History Museum

HTH Academic Internship sites include:

Qualcomm Incorporated
Kyocera Wireless
SPAWAR Systems Center
The Salk Institute
San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation
FOX 6 News
BD Biosciences / Pharmingen
San Diego Supercomputer Center
Junior Achievement
Washington Mutual Bank
Sheraton Hotel & Marina
San Diego Senior Olympics
Hotel Del Coronado
Learning Framework
San Diego Natural History Museum
Impact Urban America
Office of Congresswoman Susan Davis
Fish & Richardson
San Diego Zoo
San Diego Padres
BAT_Lab

Academic Internships

At High Tech High, students work and learn on-site at businesses, schools, nonprofit organizations and professional associations all over San Diego. Every High Tech High student must complete at least one internship during the junior and senior years. Each internship lasts for a minimum of 100 hours (approximately 8-10 hours per week) over the course of one trimester.

HTH students apply and interview for their preferred internships. The selection criteria and interview process may vary, depending on the employer. Employers, teachers, advisors and the HTH Academic Internship Coordinator review applications, resumes and digital portfolios. Students are encouraged to create their own internships through professionals who already know them, but their internship experience is always closely monitored by HTH staff.

Since internship sites are located throughout San Diego County, students must design a Transportation Plan that includes the specific routes, times and modes of transit. This plan must be approved by their parents, who are legally responsible for students while they travel to and from their internship site.

Once selected, students sign an Internship Agreement with their mentor, advisor, parent, and HTH Internship Coordinator. They also develop and implement specific projects to contribute to their work site. Mentors assist students as they develop their Project Description, which include a detailed timeline and overview of their project. Three evaluations are completed for each internship project - a Student Evaluation, a Mentor Evaluation, and an Internship Evaluation, which asks for more detailed feedback on the overall experience, in order to ensure high quality learning opportunities at each internship site



Questions? Contact Caleb Clark, Academic Internship Coordinator at 619.572.4564, or cclark@hightechhigh.org, or Rebecca Haddock, Director of Outreach at 619.243.5035, or rhaddock@hightechhigh.org