INTERNSHIP STORIES

DESTINATION ZURICH

Office of Career & Talent Management.
Google Internship Zurich

Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland, it's an exciting city with numerous attractions and things to do: activities, outings, hikes, sights, museums, tours, restaurants - from gourmet to street food, and, of course, shopping at Bahnhofstrasse, Viadukt or in the Old Town. It’s also home to some of the biggest tech companies in Europe like IBM, Google, and Microsoft. Our very own Regent University Cybersecurity student, Max Gigli started his internship program this Fall at Google, Zurich.

The Office of Career & Talent Management caught up with Max where he shared some insights of his internship search and how he landed the Google Internship at Zurich.

Student: Max Gigli  
Year: Senior Year Undergraduate.  
Major: Cybersecurity:  
Internship: 1 year at Google Zurich, Switzerland.

Max this appears to be a dream internship move for you or anyone wanting to get into Cybersecurity or IT. Can you explain how you found out about this internship opportunity?

Yes it is a dream internship opportunity and I feel very fortunate to be over here working in Google. I started out looking at many different career websites, such as LinkedIn, Monster, and Indeed.com and that helped me start. But I found this specific opportunity on Glassdoor.

How did you start your internship search process?

I was trying to find Cybersecurity internships only in the beginning. However, I found it very difficult due to my lack of specific experience as it was very competitive. So I started to broaden my search more to include Information Technology roles like IT Support, Network Administrator etc. I was also lucky as I could broaden my search from Virginia Beach to anywhere in the world. As long as I could get experience I would go anywhere!
Before you were offered the internship at Google, how many internships did you apply for?

I can’t remember the exact number but it was something around 40 or 50 companies that I sent my resume and application out to. I got responses from about 15 companies to either move forward in the interviewing process or told I was not shortlisted to go further.

Was it difficult not to hear back from companies you applied to?
Yes sometimes it was difficult not hearing any feedback as you don’t know what you can improve on. Some companies will send out an automated email stating you will not be considered for the position other will send email directly from HR that are more personal thanking me for applying but none give any feedback as to why.

How long approximately before you heard back from Google after you first applied and can you share the steps you had to go through?

I remember it was around December 2018 when I sent my application to Google and I heard back around 3 months later in March 2019. The process was somewhat long, it took almost 3 months and many interviews before receiving an offer. But the communication was very good from Google so I understood each step and the timeline. I had two video interviews with the recruiter where we talked about the internship role my resume, my interests and other general questions about myself and why I would choose Google. After that I had 3 technical interviews with 3 different recruiters. All of them were case scenario based and asking me how I would deal with each of the cases. Some of it was testing my knowledge of the subject and others were more behavioral, figuring out how I would respond.

Were you asked about your Transferable skills e.g. Teamwork, Leadership, Communication Skills?

Thankfully, yes as I was told by my career coach in CTM to highlight these clearly on my resume and cover letter. They asked about them in my interview and I was able to bring up prepared answers.

What services at CTM did you find helpful in securing your internship?

The guidance I received from my career coach at CTM was invaluable as I was able to understand the type of resume and cover letter I needed to work on for this type of internship. She also helped me prepare for the different type of interviews I was going to face and that helped me feel prepared throughout the different interviews I had with Google.

Did Google or other companies ask about your coursework at Regent University?

Yes as I did not have any work experience my coursework at Regent was so important. I was able to highlight relevant courses on my resume and why I would be an ideal candidate. They asked about my classes and the projects in the interviews which helped greatly as I was able to show my passion and understanding of IT.

This Internship is for 1 year, what steps did you have to take once you accepted the role?

It all happened so fast once I got accepted I had to prepare to leave Virginia Beach within a few weeks! But Google were very helpful and even paid for our moving costs! We found a short term apartment (monthly) which allowed us time to find the right place once we moved over so my wife was very happy!

If you could advise another Regent student searching to get an Internship what best advice would you give them?

Start the search early as I wasn’t expecting it to be over 6 months. Your classroom work is very important but if you have any extracurricular activities like clubs or groups that you can join or setup I would recommend it. As employers like to see your interests play out in your life. Soft skills are as important as technical skills. If it’s not a strength I would recommend working on these particularly with teamwork as it will come up in your interview. Take any opportunity that allows you highlight your soft skills. Lastly, get CTM to help you with your resume and interview skills as it helped me greatly. Stay positive not hearing back can sometimes be difficult, but trust in HIM and just keep applying!
TALK TO US!

SHARE YOUR INTERNSHIP STORY AND IF CHOSEN WIN A GIFT VOUCHER!

Email ctm@regent.edu with subject heading 'Internship Stories' and we'll be in contact with you.