2021 Startup Summer FAQ

Chicago Booth’s Startup Summer program offers incoming students, who are curious about entrepreneurship, the opportunity to work for a Booth-led startup during the summer before they begin their MBA program. Last year, admitted students who participated interned at companies such as Monica & Andy in Chicago, Litesprite in Seattle, Pronto CX in Washington, DC, and Beekin in London. Please note, the 2020 internships were done remotely in light of the pandemic.

Who can participate?
Admitted students who have officially accepted their offer of Admission, and paid their first deposit are invited to apply to Startup Summer internships.

How do I apply?
Once you’ve made your deposit, you will receive an email 2-3 days later instructing you to claim your CNET ID and password. These credentials will allow you to access Global Talent Solutions (GTS), Chicago Booth’s Career Portal, where you will be able to view and apply to Startup Summer internship opportunities between March 15 and May 24.

What roles are available for me?
Internship activities are varied and could range from constructing financial models to validating customer needs. All roles are intended for incoming Boothies who are about to begin their Booth MBA.

Where and when are the internships?
Startup Summer internships last seven weeks, starting in late June 2021 running through mid-August (exact start and end dates will be at the discretion of the start-up).

Please note we are creating a marketplace for opportunities, as such, we are working hard to secure opportunities in global locations but cannot guarantee opportunities in a given location until the job postings go live in GTS.

Do I need work authorization in the country where the internship will take place?
Yes, students must have legal work authorization for the country in which the startup is based. Internships must be full-time. Remote internships may be necessary depending on the location of the internship, and the companies stance in the pandemic. This can be discussed with the company once you’ve received an interview. The program is fine with a remote internship if that is deemed to be the safest.
How are participants selected?
Admitted students will apply to internships through GTS. Startups will go through their own selection processes to choose interns. Admitted students are selected for internships by the startups.

Is there compensation for this pre-MBA internship?
The Deans’ Office at Chicago Booth will provide participating admitted students with a stipend to help offset living expenses. Stipends will be $4000 for the 7-week long internship.

How many internship positions can I apply for?
Each eligible admitted student may apply to a maximum of 10 internships.

Am I guaranteed an internship?
The likelihood of being selected will depend on the participating startups and the number of applicants. Each eligible admitted student may apply to a maximum of 10 internships. Students with some flexibility of geographic location or industry may increase their likelihood of matching. As a reminder, admitted students must have legal work authorizations for the country in which the startup is based.

When do I apply?
Eligible admitted students will gain access to the GTS 2-3 days upon paying their deposit. You will have until May 24 to submit applications. You will receive a separate email with the link to GTS. Please note, it can take up to two weeks from the time you deposit to the time you gain access to GTS.

When will I find out whether I’m accepted?
Startups will reach out to admitted student applicants between March 15 and May 24 to interview and make offers. We ask admits to be attentive to their Chicago Booth email and phone messages during this time. The sooner you apply to an opportunity, the sooner you will receive an interview and know if you’ve received an offer.

What if I don’t get an internship?
After school begins, there will be many other opportunities available to engage in entrepreneurial activities, including classes, programs, incubators, etc.

As a reminder, you can start applying to internships through GTS on March 15, 2021 (limit of ten applications). At this time, companies can contact you to schedule interviews and provide next steps.

If you are a student with questions, please contact Nicole Chen in Admissions, Nicole.Chen@ChicagoBooth.edu.

If you are an alumni startup with questions, please contact Gorana Kolar in the Polsky Center, Gorana.Kolar@ChicagoBooth.edu.