



# MACALESTER COLLEGE

Spring 2017

We are excited that you are considering becoming an internship sponsor for a Macalester College student's internship as part of the MacNest program. MacNest is a 10 week internship program where students receive funding to intern at a Twin Cities start-up while living in community in Macalester's Summit House. We're thrilled about this program and its potential to support both our students and the growing Twin Cities Startup Community.

## **MacNest Program Details**

Students receive funding for full-time, ten week, unpaid internships to work in Twin Cities' startups. In addition, students will live on campus in a community house and have the opportunity to reflect on vocation, scholarship and their academic career through their experience in the summer. This process will help students gain deeper meaning from their internship and learn from each other's experiences.

Students receive academic credit for their internship and have a faculty sponsor to help set goals. In order to apply for the MacNest program, students will need an internship job description and a commitment from you that if they are accepted into the program, you will be able to fully support their experience.

## **Dates of Internship**

Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, August 4th.

## **Additional Programming**

In addition to supporting a student intern, we invite you to participate in the MacNest program through the summer:

- Attend or lead a Thursday evening dinner/reflection with MacNest students at Macalester
- Attend summer poster session and reflection at the end of the program
- At the conclusion of the summer internships, we will host a Lunch Debrief where we share key takeaways and best practices in working with interns from the summer. It is our hope that this will help to extend the learning and add additional value to your work.

## **Student Selection**

The program's goal is to providing funding to students of significant financial need who would not otherwise have the opportunity to do an unpaid internship. Students will be awarded grants on the basis of the quality of their internship and their interest in living in a community. The students are required to apply by March 20th, 2017.

## What is a quality internship?

We've found that there are certain experiences that create great opportunities for both the organization and the student intern.

- **Quality of experience** – The host organization must provide a substantial, meaningful, and challenging learning situation for the student. While the student's primary role may be focused, it must be situated in a broader context that allows the intern to understand multiple facets of the organization, its operations, and the field at large. This is best documented through the written position description and Learning Contract required for internship registration.
- **Committed to the intern and internship** – The host organization must agree to provide for the learning needs of the student throughout the term, including orientation, training, regular supervision, feedback, and support. Our students are highly capable of independent work, but there must be a balance that ensures they will be fully engaged with your organization.
- **Capacity and stability** – The host organization must have sufficient human resources involved to ensure the intern will get proper attention for the duration of the term. Everyone gets busy, but the student should be able to access resources throughout.
- **Experience of supervisor** – the person supervising an intern should have a greater level of knowledge and experience, or the capacity to access that specific expertise to ensure the student will have adequate guidance and resources to learn and complete assigned work. In addition, this person should be able to help enrich the student's experience learning about entrepreneurship in the Twin Cities

## Additional questions to consider

### **Supervision:**

- Can you provide an orientation to your organization and the training necessary for the student to be successful in his/her role?
- Can you meet with the intern on a regular basis for supervision/feedback?
- Can you provide broader exposure to your operation, the field, and profession to enhance the student's development?
- Can you provide the school with feedback on the intern a couple of times over the summer?

### **Experience working with students:**

- Have you had interns before? What have they done?
- Have you been an intern yourself? Can you think how you can make this internship be an even better experience than what you had?
- Can you envision a role/project for an intern in your organization that will help you and interest/challenge a student?
- What skill set are you looking for in a student? Do you have the resources to teach/guide the intern in their work?

**More information about MacNest**

For more information about MacNest, please see [MacNest](#)

For more information on our internship program, please see [Internship program](#).

For more information on our CDC, please see [Career Development Center](#).

If you have any further questions regarding this program, please contact Kate Ryan Reiling, Entrepreneur in Residence at [reiling@macalester.edu](mailto:reiling@macalester.edu) or 651-696-6501.

Sincerely,

Kate Ryan Reiling '00  
Entrepreneur in Residence