

## USA TODAY – Spring 2019 -- Newsroom Internships

USA TODAY NETWORK is looking for a creative, motivated problem-solver who can sling code, find stories, and present them using the web as a medium. If you love to learn new skills and get excited about uncovering stories that will impact your community, this is a great opportunity. Work alongside award-winning reporters and editors at one of the nation's largest media companies AND apply all the tools at your disposal to tell stories through news apps, data visualizations, searchable databases and more.

### You will...

- Work directly with the USA TODAY interactive graphics team and its investigative team, helping us gather and analyze data or build the digital elements for our most ambitious work.
- Work with talented journalists, designers and developers to tell stories using the web as your medium.
- Tackle a wide range of projects from [interactive presentations](#) to [data visualizations](#) to [immersive experiences](#).
- Constantly learn and improve your skills, both within your discipline and across the board.
- [Do some good for the world](#) and produce quality work while you are at it.
- Be free to pitch your own story and project ideas.

### Pre-requisites:

- A minimum OVERALL GPA of 3.5 and no academic violations
- Must be a junior, senior or graduate student (after your first semester) with a major or minor in SOC
- A self starter and a team player who can pitch ideas on using data and digital tools to find and tell stories digitally, across all devices
- A watchdog reporter's sensibility -- who is comfortable questioning authority, whose curiosity won't let her/him take "no" for an answer and who is hungry to try new things.

**Skillset:** (You are not expected to have all of the below skills, or know what all of them are. We're looking for people comfortable with one or two of these and who can pick up new tools and programming skills on the fly)

- Front end and design knowledge using HTML, CSS and JS.
- Data-scraping and statistical analysis languages such as Python, PHP, and R.
- Data visualization software and libraries, including Mapbox, D3, three.js, etc.
- Database technologies such as SQL, Postgres, Couchbase, etc.

### Extra credit for...

- Experience working in media, especially online journalism.
- Understanding the principles of responsive design and/or being able to realize designs through code.
- Comfort with Trello, GitHub and Slack.

Our interns work both independently and collaboratively on stories of all kinds, including our biggest enterprise work and investigations. Critical thinking and analytical skills will be encouraged and sharpened. Interns also participate in daily news meetings, where they'll learn about how news developments take shape.

### Compensation

USA TODAY provides a stipend of \$12 per hour

### Dates & Hours

January - May; Weekly schedule to be arranged with USAT supervisor. Approx. 20 hours per week.

### Location & Transportation:

USAT headquarters building in Tyson's Corner is on Silver line metro and accessible by bus or car. Parking is free. USAT will assist with car pools; USAT is on Slack and is well equipped for remote work.

#### **Intern-editor mentors:**

Dean's Interns will be offered training and paired with a mentor who will be available to answer questions and an editor who will give feedback on his or her work. During the internship, the intern will meet with USAT hiring editors to learn about opportunities within the company.

#### **USA TODAY Application Procedure:**

Apply directly to this USA TODAY website including a resume and work samples:

<http://internships.usatoday.com/>. **\*In addition, complete this AU SOC application below so that we can recommend you for the position.**

#### **SOC Application Procedure\*:**

After applying online via USA TODAY's website, complete an SOC application to be recommended by SOC's Dean's Intern faculty review committee. USA Today gives special consideration to students who have been vetted by faculty.

Send an email with the following material as attachments to [deansinternships@american.edu](mailto:deansinternships@american.edu):

- 1) This completed typed application -- saved as a PDF titled as LastName-USAT.pdf
- 2) Your resume saved as LastName-Resume- USAT.doc
- 3) One document containing three work samples or three links to published material; or a link to your website. Saved as LastName-WorkSample- USAT.doc

#### **Application Deadline: 11:00 pm Tuesday, October 23, 2018**

Based on the strength of your application and a faculty review of applicants, the top portfolios of the top candidates who most strongly match the position's criteria will be shared with USA TODAY. Their hiring supervisor will make the final hiring decision. You **may** be contacted directly by USA TODAY at any time following the application. Please let us know if you are offered the position so that we can include you in the DI cohort.

#### **SOC REQUIREMENTS for all Dean's Interns:**

- Provide a headshot photo to be featured on SOC's [website](#) and flatscreens
- Submit a 250 word blog post with on-the-job action photos/selfies for the DI [Blog](#)
- Post at least once to social media about their experience and provide the link
- Students who successfully complete their Dean's Internship will be presented with the distinguished DI medallion to wear during Commencement.

**Credit Information:** If you would like academic credit for this Dean's Internship, contact your academic advisor directly to determine eligibility. If eligible, you must complete all registration and release forms, and enroll for internship supervision **prior** to the 'Add' course deadline.

**Questions?** Contact SOC Dean's Intern Manager, Lydia Schindler – [lydias@american.edu](mailto:lydias@american.edu), 202-885-2220; Or drop by McKinley Rm # 212 to introduce yourself and us know of your interests.

## USA TODAY Dean's Internship Application – Spring 2019

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Major and Graduation Month & Year: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate or undergraduate: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website / Online portfolio: \_\_\_\_\_

Can you commit to the required hours each week this semester? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please answer the following questions**

1. Please describe your skills and experiences that distinguish you for this position.

2. What are your career aspirations? How will this internship help you achieve these?

3. What should this employer know about you and your work habits?

4. Provide the names of three SOC professors, along with their email addresses, who best know your work.