



# THE CRANKSTART INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME: GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS

Thank you for your interest in the Crankstart Internship Programme. We hope this document provides all the information you need, however if you have any questions, please email

[crankstart-internships@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:crankstart-internships@careers.ox.ac.uk). Further information can be found at

[www.careers.ox.ac.uk/crankstart-employer](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/crankstart-employer).

## PLEASE CLICK BELOW TO ACCESS THE FULL DETAILS

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# CRANKSTART INTERNSHIPS – 2025 - 2026

Crankstart Scholars are a group of almost 1700 widening participation UK resident students from lower-income backgrounds (annual household income of £32,500 or less). Scholars study a range of [all undergraduate degrees](#), and the Crankstart Internship Programme offers internships exclusively to this group of students. If you have a project that you would like a Scholar to work on, you can offer an internship(s) in the Winter, Spring and/or Summer vacations. Our [Internship Best Practice](#) offers advice on what makes a good internship. Although Scholars have access to funding to support internships, for-profit organisations are expected to pay at least minimum wage. Not-for-profits should contribute towards major expenses, such as covering accommodation or travel. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact [crankstart-internships@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:crankstart-internships@careers.ox.ac.uk).

## KEY DATES

| Winter internships   |  | 2025  |
|--|--|---|
| Employers contacted about winter internships   |  | Wednesday, 10 September 2025  |
| Deadline for employer's winter internship proposals  |  | Friday, 17 October 2025   |
| Placements advertised to Scholars  |  | Monday, 20 October – Monday, 10 November 2025   |
| Applications sent to employers   |  | Wednesday, 12 November 2025   |
| Employers to shortlist, interview, select final candidate and to have informed the Internship Office |  | Thursday, 27 November 2025  |
| Internship period  |  | Monday, 8 December 2025 – Friday, 9 January 2026  |
| Spring internships   |  | 2025 – 2026   |
| Employers contacted about spring internships   |  | 7 November 2025 and 9 January 2026  |
| Deadline for spring internship proposals   |  | Friday, 23 January 2026   |
| Placements advertised to Scholars  |  | Monday, 26 January – Monday, 16 February 2026   |
| Applications sent to employers   |  | Wednesday, 18 February 2026   |
| Employers to shortlist, interview, select final candidate and to have informed the Internship Office |  | Thursday, 5 March 2026  |
| Internship period  |  | Monday, 16 March 2026 – Friday, 17 April 2026   |
| Summer internships   |  | 2026  |
| Employers contacted about summer internships   |  | Monday 2 February, Monday 30 March 2026   |
| Final deadline for summer internship proposals   |  | Friday, 24 April 2026<br><i>We advertise summer internships on a rolling basis with a 3-week application window</i> |
| Placements advertised to Scholars  |  | From April- 18 May 2026 ( <i>rolling deadlines</i> )  |
| Applications sent to employers   |  | Wednesday, 20 May 2026 ( <i>or earlier</i> )  |
| Employers to shortlist, interview, select final candidate and to have informed the Internship Office |  | Thursday, 4 June 2026 ( <i>or earlier</i> )   |
| Internship period  |  | Monday, 22 June 2026 – Friday, 2 October 2026   |

# HOW TO OFFER A CRANKSTART INTERNSHIP

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To offer a Crankstart Internship you will need to submit an internship proposal. **We recommend having this guide open while completing the proposal.**

## Key points for completing the form

Please complete as many fields as possible and give plenty of detail. The information can be used as search criteria by students, so appropriate details will increase the visibility of your opportunity and your chances of receiving a good number of applications. Any fields marked with a \* must be completed. For fields allowing multiple selections, please select all that apply. Please make sure you save your text elsewhere to avoid losing your work.

**N.B. THE SYSTEM WILL TIME OUT IF NO EDITS ARE SAVED WITHIN A 60 MINUTE PERIOD.**

Please see the [Careers Service and Internship Office Privacy Policy](#) for details on how the personal data you enter onto this form is stored and used.

## Key Crankstart internship dates for the –2025 - 2026 academic year

Crankstart Internships are advertised on a rolling basis throughout the academic year, generally for a 3-week duration. The three periods in which you can host a Crankstart Scholar are over the Winter, Spring and Summer vacations (dates below):

|                 | 2025 - 2026 Dates                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Winter Vacation | 8 December 2025 – 9 January 2026 |
| Spring Vacation | 16 March 2026 – 17 April 2026    |
| Summer Vacation | 22 June 2026 – 2 October 2026    |

## Registering on CareerConnect

CareerConnect provides access to all our services for students, employers and others. Please register your organisation online using our [registration page](#). You will receive approval within two working days and will be sent a link to set up a password. If you do not receive this email, please contact a member of the Employer Relations Team on 01865 274663.

## Accessing the online proposal form

Go to [organisation login](#) and enter your username and password. Go to the 'Internship Office and Skills Programmes' tab at the top of the page and click on 'Post Crankstart Internship Opportunity'.

## EXAMPLE OF A CRANKSTART INTERNSHIP PROPOSAL

### JOB TITLE: RESEARCH INTERNSHIP – POPULISM IN EUROPE

| Opportunity Summary   | Notes  |
|---|--|
| <p>The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) is an international, Brussels-based non-profit organisation with a pan-European membership and 27 years of experience. Our mission is to empower citizens to create a more inclusive and stronger European Union by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Promoting and defending citizens' rights</li> <li>▶ Developing and supporting mechanisms to increase citizens' and citizen organisations' democratic participation in, and engagement with, the EU.</li> </ul>  | <p>You may wish to briefly introduce your organisation, highlighting its background, ethos and current work. Students can see your organisation profile from the advert page, so this is not obligatory. You may also highlight any previous activities or internships with Oxford students.</p> |
| <p>ECAS is looking for a motivated student who wishes to carry out research on the subject of Populism in Europe.</p> <p>ECAS would like to analyse the phenomenon of populism in non-metropolitan (rural) regions of Europe with a focus on four specific countries. The areas studied will be either above or below the EU average in terms of socioeconomic indicators.</p> <p>The intern will seek to analyse the determinants of populism and whether the EU is a factor, and the role of Civil Society Organisations as intermediaries between citizens and institutions.</p> | <p>Context of the project provides details of how the internship fits into the organization, e.g. has it been worked on before? How will the intern contribute?</p>  |
| <p>The contribution of the intern to the research will be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 1st phase: data collection through desk research</li> <li>▶ 2nd phase: creation and submission of surveys and interviews</li> <li>▶ 3rd phase: analysis of data</li> <li>▶ 4th phase: elaboration of the outcomes. The outcome of the research will be discussed directly with the supervisor, and according to the timeframe and the data collected, it may be: a report, an article or a contribution to a larger publication.</li> </ul>                      | <p>Outline the tasks that the student will undertake. If the exact brief is not yet clear, please provide examples and be clear that the tasks outlined do not comprise an exhaustive list.</p>  |
| <p>The intern will be guided daily by the supervisor. Training will be provided by the</p>  | <p>Please state supervisory arrangements and</p>   |

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| mentor (or by other members of the ECAS team). Upon request, the intern can attend conferences, events, and training workshops in the field of the research or another area of interest.  |  | whether there are any further opportunities.   |
| On a weekly basis, the supervisor and the intern will analyse the progress made. The weekly evaluation will also consider the interpersonal aspects of working in an office context. At the end of the internship period, the intern will also receive the Internal Evaluation Survey to provide an overall assessment of the experience. |  | How will the project be concluded? What will the intern/organisation achieve, what will the outcomes be, and how will the project be used? |

| <b>Applicant Profile</b>  |  | Notes   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ English language proficiency – written and oral</li> <li>▶ Good written communication skills</li> <li>▶ Friendly, social, proactive</li> <li>▶ Innovative and result-orientated</li> <li>▶ Capable of working in a team and individually</li> </ul> <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Knowledge of research and analytical methodologies</li> </ul> |  | Please give essential and desirable applicant criteria, including skills, personal qualities and experience. Keep this as inclusive as possible to encourage more applicants. |

| <b>Project Summary</b>  |  | Notes  |
|---|--|--|
| ECAS is an international NGO with 27 years of experience in promoting and defending citizens' rights and increasing democratic participation in the EU. We are looking for a motivated student who wishes to help us in analysing the phenomenon of populism in Europe. |  | This is a short blurb about the organisation and opportunity which will appear in our marketing of the Crankstart Programme to students. |

| <b>Policy Regarding Use of AI in Applications</b>  |  | Notes   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>While we encourage the use of AI systems in the role, please do not use AI assistance during the application process. We want to evaluate your non-AI assisted writing skills.</p> <p>Applications using AI will not be considered.</p> |  | We understand that some internship hosts value students with technological proficiency, including familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI). At the same time, there is an expectation that students who use AI tools will use them |

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|  |  | <p>responsibly and ethically when preparing their applications. <u><b>Suitable guidance is available to students.</b></u></p> <p>However, it would be helpful if you could indicate your organisation's stance on the use of AI by students in their applications. If your organisation does not have a policy, please write "No specific policy."</p> |
|--|--|--|

| <b>Diversity Initiatives Long Text</b>   | Notes  |
|--|--|
| <p>ECAS is a firm believer in diversity and inclusion in the workplace. In each of our vacancy postings, we include an emphasised line stating that ECAS is an equal opportunity employer that seeks to further diversify its staff in terms of gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, culture, economic background and nationality. This is designed to make potential candidates comfortable when applying to work for our organisation.</p> | <p>We strongly encourage all organisations to add text to this section. Where no official practices are in place, a statement can still be made regarding diversity, equality and inclusion in the workplace. If your work location presents any issues for access, please inform the Internship Office.</p> |

## Completing the form

### PUBLISHING DETAILS

**Posting Internship Office and Skills Programme Type:** Select 'Crankstart Internship'.

**Internship Office and Skills Programme Details:** Select 'Crankstart Internship Programme' from the drop-down menu.

**Opportunities Publishing Details – Advertising Dates:** Select the starting date as today's date, and the closing date for 3 weeks' time. Crankstart Internships are generally advertised for around 3 weeks.

**Send Email Notifications:** Select 'the main contact for this vacancy only'. This will ensure you receive key information.

**Application Details:** Select 'Add any specific instructions'.

## PROJECT DETAILS

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**Job Title:** Please give a title **specific** to the role and/or your organisation (students must be able to differentiate between different internships). Please also include 'Crankstart' in the title to help it stand out to Scholars. E.g., 'Crankstart Marketing Internship' or 'Winston Churchill Archives Crankstart Internship'.

**Opportunity Type:** Select 'Internship/Work Experience'

**Opportunity Summary:** This is where all the Crankstart Internship project details are given:

- ▶ Background to the project – what stage is it at?
- ▶ What are the long-term aims?
- ▶ Specific contribution of the intern – i.e. daily tasks and responsibilities.
- ▶ Expected outcomes – e.g. report, presentation, contribution to larger piece of work.
- ▶ Any special opportunities – e.g. attending events or conferences, working with other teams.

**We use this text to advertise the internship to students, so the more information you can provide the better!**

**Occupational Area:** Select the sector(s) relevant to the project. Students use this field to search for internships.

**Location Details:** Fill in the area and country of your organisation. In 'Location Details', please state an address or city. Placements should be easily accessible by public transport. If the location is not easily accessible, please contact us.

**Salary Details:** Please select the relevant option in 'salary range'. As a reminder, for-profit organisations are expected to pay at least minimum wage. We would ask that for-profit employers specify the salary in the proposal. Not-for-profits should cover expenses. If this internship is funded by Crankstart, please select 'Covered by stipend/ bursary' and leave the 'Additional details' section blank.

**Number of Vacancies:** Select the number of interns. Please note that if a UK internship is fully funded by Crankstart, advertised vacancies will be limited to 3 per internship round. (This number can change once you review applications).

**Start Date Details:** Please choose a period over Winter, Spring or Summer from the table on the front page. Winter and Spring internships can last from 1 to 3 weeks. Internships taking place over the summer months can last from 1 to 12 weeks. (However, please note, only finalists can undertake internships lasting longer than 8 weeks). If the internship is funded by Crankstart, the duration will be subject to the amount of funding available to the individual applicant based on the current Oxford/London Living Wage rate.

## APPLICANT PROFILE

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**Applicant Profile:** Fill in essential and desirable skills and qualities. This serves as a guide for students when writing their applications. This does not need lots of detail, but it is helpful to list several different criteria.

**Duration:** Please decide the duration in advance as students may base their decision to apply or not around this information.

**Year of Study:** If you are flexible or have no preference, please select the any/no preference option.

**Area of Study:** Select your preference (if any) for applicants' area of study. The University is divided into four divisions: Humanities, Social Sciences, MPLS and Medical Sciences. A list of subjects is included on the University's [website](#).

## OTHER DETAILS

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**Project Type:** Select all that apply.

**Project Summary:** Write a 2-3 line summary of your organisation and project, including the intern's specific contribution. Please bear in mind that this summary will be used widely in our marketing, which reaches many students and is used to attract applicants.

**Accommodation:** If you will be providing accommodation, this must be secure and in a safe space; you can provide additional details (such as a home stay, hostel, shared room) in the dedicated area.

**Risks associated with the internship:** When asked about highlighting risks, hosts may wish to think about e.g. extreme weather, local crime, risk of lone/remote working, any of which can be specified in the dedicated area.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Please confirm your agreement, which is essential for participation.

## USING AI IN APPLICATIONS

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We understand that some internship hosts value students with technological proficiency, including familiarity with artificial intelligence (AI). At the same time, there is an expectation that students who use AI tools will use them responsibly and ethically when preparing their applications. [Suitable guidance is available to students.](#)

However, it would be helpful if you could indicate your organisation's stance on the use of AI by students in their applications. If your organisation does not have a policy, please write "N/A."



## DIVERSITY INITIATIVES

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Please share the details of any initiatives that your organisation offers to encourage and support diversity in the workplace. If you have a formal policy stating your position on diversity and inclusion, please add this here. You could also include any support measures that ensure people from all backgrounds are represented in your organisation, with particular regard to ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, age, gender, and economic background. Examples of good practice in diversity and inclusion are:

- ▶ Work with Pride Japan, an index to evaluate corporate efforts to support inclusiveness for LGBT employees and other sexual minorities.
- ▶ Diversity Impact Awards India, recognising the achievements of organisations in promoting diversity and inclusion in India.
- ▶ Athena Swan Charter, a UK initiative recognising commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine in higher education and research.
- ▶ Race Equality Charter, which aims to improve the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.
- ▶ A multi-faith room, a quiet space set aside for people of different religious beliefs, or none, to spend time in contemplation or prayer.
- ▶ Diversity training provided to staff on unconscious bias and diversity issues in general, particularly in the recruitment process

If you do not have any of these programmes in place, it would be helpful to make a general statement about how your organisation seeks to create and maintain a welcoming environment.

## ENCOURAGING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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The Internship Office strives to make its internship programmes accessible to all students, including those with disabilities. Please use the text box to share your approach to making reasonable adjustments and provisions in your workplace for students with disabilities, including any existing policy or official statement from your organisation. There are a range of possible adjustments that may be needed, and the Internship Office is available to provide support should you have any questions. If you have any such arrangements already in place, such as wheelchair access, lifts, ground floor working space, hearing support systems, language support, specific software, flexible working hours, a dedicated point of contact for disabled staff etc, please add them to the form. Please note that UK employers must comply with Equality Act legislation and provide reasonable adjustments to meet students' needs.

Employers outside the UK are expected to comply with their own country's legislative framework for disabled people. Please note that you are obliged to fill in this section. If you are unable to include specific details of how you would support students with disabilities, please provide a welcoming statement suggesting that individual arrangements may be supported.

## Publishing your Crankstart internship

Once you have checked that all the information is correct, click 'add opportunity'. Adverts are not visible to students straight away but come through to the Internship Office first.

## What happens next?

We will review your internship proposal and send confirmation if it is approved. Submitting an opportunity is not a guarantee of inclusion in the programme. The Internship Office may edit the proposal or contact you for further information before it is advertised to students. It is possible to edit proposals after submitting, but where possible please submit the finished version. If this is the first time you are offering an internship, we will contact you to arrange a short call to discuss the process of the programme (if this has not already happened). You will receive a notification when your internship is about to go live on CareerConnect. Please be aware that once an opportunity has been published, any further edits made to your proposal will remove it from circulation meaning student cannot apply for it – if you wish to change anything after it has gone live, please inform the Crankstart Internship team. Students apply directly to the Internship Office with a CV and short personal statement. After the application deadline, we send you these applications electronically and securely. We will then provide you with a date by which we would like you to make your selection.

## Contact Us:

01865 274646

[crankstart-internships@careers.ox.ac.uk](mailto:crankstart-internships@careers.ox.ac.uk)

[www.careers.ox.ac.uk/crankstart-employer](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/crankstart-employer)