

# Funding & Internships

## HCC Seminar

09/12/18

### Getting to Know Other HCC Students (5 min)

**Directions:** In your small group, go around and introduce yourself! Starting with the 1st year, share your name, PhD advisor, research area, and answer to the following question.

**Question:** If you had to name the worst song to wake up to in the morning, what would it be?<sup>1</sup>

### 1) What Funding is Available and How to Apply for It? (15 min)

Being a PhD student is expensive. Even though our tuitions are covered, we still have a lot of bills to pay and a very limited income. Bringing in external funding can help you cover your costs (research and/or personal), and might even give you some extra freedom and flexibility! There are a lot of different types of funding, there are fellowships, grants, travel funds, and one-time stipend-based awards. Georgia Tech has a master list of fellowship opportunities we highly recommend you check out: <http://www.grad.gatech.edu/fellowships>.

HCC students often apply to NSF GRFP (due end of OCT, 1st and 2nd year only), Foley Scholars, GVU Travel Funds, Google PhD Fellowships, and Microsoft PhD Fellows Program, to name a few. Keep an eye for opportunities being sent to your GT inbox as well! **Advice:** Apply. Apply. Apply! It's good experience and could result in funding.

#### Discussion Prompts:

- Applying For Fellowship & Scholarship Funding
  - **What funds** have you applied to, **when** did you apply, and **would you recommend them** to others?
    - Got any great application tips?
    - Any upcoming deadlines your group should be looking out for?
  - What are your **strategies for tailoring an application**?
  - Do you have **favorite resources** for finding opportunities and writing proposals?
- Grant Writing
  - What's an **important thing you learned when writing for a grant**.
  - Do you have **strategies for contributing** to a grant proposal?
  - **How have you pitched a grant** project to your advisor?
  - How do you **figure out what the funding agency is looking to fund** when you write a proposal?
- Differences in Funding Opportunities
  - Outside of "big" funds, what are your **favorite "smaller" funds to apply for**?
  - What are important **differences between** funds from the **industry & the government**?

(There's a little FYI about funding quirks on the other side of the page)

FYI: There are some quirks associated with external funding that you might not know about.

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<sup>1</sup> Credit for this question comes from the book *If<sup>2</sup>...* by McFarlane and Saywell (p. 29)

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- E.g., paying quarterly taxes, determining what kinds of other funding opportunities you can still apply for, extra paperwork for interning while on a fellowship. If you have any questions, reach out to another HCC student who has experience in this area for help.

## 2) Internships: How to Find Them, Get Them, and Keep 'Em (15 min)

Not sure what to do after graduation? Want to try different opportunities? Want to establish more connections and experience more in the industry? Internships give you the chance to try out new work environments, meet new people, and bring in additional income.

### Discussion Prompts:

- Where and How to Apply:
  - How do you **strategize your internship applications**?
    - e.g., how many do you apply for? Do you apply cold, email someone, or ask your advisors for help? What do you do to prepare for interview?
  - **Are some years better for internships** than others?
    - If so, how do you decide when to apply?
  - What do you do to **find internship opportunities**?
  - What are important **things you've learned about applying for internships**?
- Internship Experiences
  - **What do you look for in an internship**?
    - Do you look for research focused opportunities? Product focused ones? Collaborative labs or independent work environments?
  - If you've interned, what was the **most important thing you learned**?
    - Did you learn something about yourself? Something about a corporation? Something about the research process?
  - What was **something that surprised you** about the internship process?
  - Have you had struggles **handling NDAs and intellectual property** rules?
  - If you could go back in time to **give yourself advice** to get the most out of an internship experience, what would you say?
- Other summer opportunities?
  - What are some options that are a little less obvious than the industry internship?

## Sharing Tips + Announcements + Q&A

We will **NOT** hold seminar during our regular time on 09/19 because of CHI. Instead, let's all hangout at Happy Hour, outside of the GVU Cafe.

### Questions & Announcements

If you don't get a chance to share tips, questions, or announcements during the meeting, please email the HCC listserv and/or Marissa and Hayley to follow up.