

Read the article and answer the questions.

First, let me introduce myself. My name's Bryan. I'm majoring in Media and Communications Studies at a big university. I started my internship with a big company with no prior job experience and no clue on what to expect. No day is exactly like the other in an internship — it can be exciting, bustling, unexpected and unplanned, but when you're working to make the best out of your experience, it's extremely rewarding. So, what's an average day as an intern like?

I arrive at the office and head to my desk at 8 AM. My morning seems free. But I know there is a lot going on. I've discovered that while university life is fairly predictable, the working world is far more uncertain. So I walk over to my supervisor's desk to ask if they need any help or have any projects I can assist with for the day. The answer is almost always, "Yes!" Now, cue my excitement. I've got a busy day planned ahead of me! Whether it's a manager or another employee in my department, everyone always appreciates a helping hand and sometimes they can get too busy to delegate work. So I'm never afraid to take the initiative and ask around for tasks.



At 9 AM in a meeting, I take notes on a new public relations project and we discuss the use of appropriate language for the company's press releases. Another thing I have learnt during my internship is that it is important to be able to think critically and play a role in making decisions. This is unlike most of my school and college life which involved a lot of memorizing and repeating.



In the afternoon, I help set up the logistics for an event. I write up a run of show (the minute to minute schedule for what will happen during an event), book the conference room and caterers, and send out calendar invites to participants. This involves a lot of teamwork. And this is another difference from my school and university lifestyle. While students work individually to complete most tasks, employees must regularly interact with others and are often dependent on their coworkers for their success.



At 5 PM the day is finally over! It's time to pack up and say, "See you tomorrow!". And who knows what will happen tomorrow? It seems to me that there are so many benefits of being an intern that my school and college life never prepared me for. I have learnt to expect the unexpected, to think critically and practically about real working life issues, and to collaborate with people as part of a team. This part of my education maybe the most important of all!

1. What are some tasks an intern might do?

2. What are the benefits of being an intern?

3. What are the expectations Bryan has for his internship?

4. What are the challenges of being an intern?

5. What has Bryan learnt from his internship?

6. Do you think internships are a good idea? Explain.

The Intern (possible answers)

1 An intern might attend meetings, take notes, help with projects and press releases. An intern might also help set up events.

2 The intern learns about real working life situations. For example, an intern learns how to think critically and make decisions. He learns to take the initiative and ask for work when he has nothing to do. The intern also gets firsthand experience of teamwork. And the intern learns to expect the unexpected.

3 When he starts his internship he has no expectations. He has no clue what to expect.

4 Being an intern is different to being a student. A student's life is predictable. Brian has to adapt to the working world which is full of uncertainty.

5 He has learnt to expect the unexpected, to think critically and practically about real working life issues, and to collaborate with people as part of a team.

6 Answers will vary.