

LADDER INTERNSHIPS

Startup internships for ambitious high school students

Why do an internship in high school?



Explore a Career

Work with the world's best founders and find out what a career looks like. Learn what a real work environment is like.



Build a real-world project

Create something that matters in the world. Whether it's a market report, an app, or a strategy.



Gain an advantage in college admissions

Showcase a unique experience that few high school students have. Show tangible outcomes (such as a product) that reflect your interests.



Build a professional network, now

Work with the very best – from Harvard Business School, to Y Combinator, to ex-McKinsey founders.



Work with the very best companies

Where our companies and your mentors come from

Funded by



Studied at














Worked at





What fields can you
work in?

-  Tech/Deep Tech
-  Finance
-  Media/Journalism
-  Engineering
-  Machine Learning/AI
-  Consulting
-  Mental Health
-  Fashion
-  Health Tech
-  Environmental Science
-  Non-profits

Example projects that students could create



(01)
Competitor analysis for health tech company focused on scaling nursing homes



(02)
White paper for San Francisco-based nonprofit focused on mental health



(03)
Machine learning model to predict customer churn for e-commerce website backed by Y-Combinator



(04)
Marketing campaign for series-A backed media company

Example Host Companies and Managers!



BILLION DOLLAR STARTUP IDEAS

Industry: Tech, Media

LED BY MICHAEL BERVELL,
Founder & CEO,
HBS MBA & Microsoft alum

Billion Dollar Startup Ideas is one of the world's largest generator and aggregator of unicorn-level start-up ideas, with a reach of over 850,000 people.



JUNEBRAIN

Industry: Healthcare, Tech

LED BY DR. SAMANTHA SCOTT,
Founder & CEO,
Stanford, USC & NIH alum

JuneBrain is focused on improving remote monitoring in ophthalmology/neurology and serving a \$300K customer pipeline with a patented wearable eye-scanning device and SaaS platform.



FINTECH LAUNCH (STEALTH MODE)

Industry: Finance, Tech

LED BY KEVIN JUNKER,
Founder & CEO,
Cambridge Uni, Google & Mckinsey alum

Fintech Launch is focused on bridging the gap between financial products for individuals in markets including the United States, Europe, and Southeast Asia.

Example Host Companies and Managers!



IPMD

Industry: Healthcare, Tech

LED BY **MIN LEE**,
Founder, CEO & President,
UC Berkeley alum

IPMD is on a mission to revolutionize patient experiences using AI solutions, and has been a part of many prestigious start-up programs including those by GCP, Nvidia, AWS, and IBM.



SOFTENMIND

Industry: Mental Health, Tech

LED BY **HANH HA**,
Co-founder & CEO,
Univ. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee alum

Funded by global VC, Antler, SoftenMind aims to bring affordable and professional mental health services to Vietnamese people through using proprietary digital and AI tools.



FAIR OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

Industry: Tech, Non-profit

LED BY **LUKE HEINE**,
Founder & CEO,
Harvard & YC alum, Microsoft

Recognized in Forbes, NYT, and the Harvard Education Review, Fair Opportunity Project sends free college application advice to 63,000 public educators and provides free 1:1 mentorship to hundreds of students.

Program Timeline



WEEK 1

Meet the company coach and define the project



WEEK 3

Finalize the 1st draft of the project, meet with the company coach



WEEK 5

Meet with the company mentor, define the 2nd deliverable



WEEK 7

Finalize the project



WEEK 2

Work on the project with the company coach



WEEK 4

Present the 1st deliverable to the company



WEEK 6

Work with the company coach on the 2nd deliverable



WEEK 8

Present the final project to the company

Program Overview

8 weeks, 1 company, the internship of a lifetime.

What you will get out of this internship:



A real-world project



Work experience at a
top start-up



A letter of
completion by the
company



(Optional) A letter of
recommendation
from the host
company mentor

Program Offered

Program components

of sessions with host company

of hours per week

Internship with high-growth start-up

Work directly with a startup CEO

The CEO/founder from FAANG-level company and/or top 20 university
(E.g., Facebook, Google, McKinsey, etc.)

Goal output

Cost & Duration

	 Basic Startup Internship	 University Internship Program	 CEO Internship	 Research + CEO Internship
Program components	Work with a startup to create a real-world project	Work with a startup to create a real-world project	Work directly with a startup CEO	Combines CEO Internship and mentor research program
# of sessions with host company	8	8	8	8 + 15 (with research mentor)
# of hours per week	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Internship with high-growth start-up	✓	✓	✓	✓
Work directly with a startup CEO	—	—	✓	✓
The CEO/founder from FAANG-level company and/or top 20 university <i>(E.g., Facebook, Google, McKinsey, etc.)</i>	—	—	✓	✓
Goal output	Professional Project Pass Off Presentation	Professional Project Pass Off Presentation	Professional Project Pass Off Presentation	Professional Project Pass Off Presentation + College - Level Research Paper
Cost & Duration	\$2990 <i>8 Week Internship</i>	\$2190 <i>8 Week Internship</i>	\$4990 <i>8 Week Internship</i>	\$7400 <i>8 Week Internship + 12 Week Research Program</i>

What types of students are we looking for?

- Hardworking
- Ambitious
- Excited by your field
- Not required: experience in the selected field of work



Our alumni go on to the world's top universities

We have deep experience with our interns getting into great universities. See some of the admission results below of our 2024-2025 alumni



2
STANFORD
UNIVERSITY

acceptances



1
HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

acceptance



1
BROWN
UNIVERSITY

acceptance



1
CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

acceptance



1
UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

acceptance



3
CARNEGIE
MELLON
UNIVERSITY

acceptances



3
NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY

acceptances



2
GEORGIA
INSTITUTE
TECHNOGY

acceptances

A survey of 85 Ladder Alumni who applied to top universities in the 2024-25 admissions cycle showed that 14.29% of them were accepted to Ivy League or top 20 universities. This is **1.66x higher** than the general acceptance rate at these universities!

HERE'S WHAT WE FOUND

This is how our interns who applied to university this year used their experience at Ladder in their college application process

64% of our interns had their manager write a recommendation letter to support their applications

66% of our interns highlighted their Ladder experience in the activities section of their applications

50% of our interns incorporated their Ladder Internship experience in their main college essay

The Application & Placement Process

How students apply



We match students with companies based on their indicated interest.

Hear from some of our interns!



Hannah Bang

High School Senior | Virginia, USA
Interned with Certinell Telehealth

Project: Coded email/ SMS processing systems connected to medical devices, enabling broader testing

“Through my host company’s mentoring and being allowed to work independently, I gained work experience that I normally wouldn’t be able to receive until after college!”



Lan Nguyễn

High School Senior | Hanoi, Vietnam
Interned with Vietcetera

Project: Created AI/ML models based on the company’s databases to boost subscriber base

“The Ladder Internship Program catalyzed both my intellectual and personal growth. If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding internship that matches your interests and skills, don’t hesitate to apply!”

Hear from some of our interns!



Christopher Tilley

High School Junior | Michigan, USA
Interned with Certinell Telehealth

Project: Worked on strategy documents for a new patient monitoring system

“This program allowed me to get to know myself, my workflow, and how to work with and around other people. Ladder is a great experience!”



Sriya Bandyopadhyay

High School Senior | Dubai, UAE
Interned with Divercity.io

Project: Created a Go-to-Market strategy for a personal finance app

“Ladder was essential in creating the foundation of the relationship between me and the host company. Each task was tailored to fit my interests and strengths while also pushing me to learn new things.”



Khalid Hajj


High School Junior | Dubai, UAE
Interned with Billion Dollar Startup Ideas

Project: Built a business plan for a subscription-based AI start-up idea

“This internship was my first real working experience, and I took away a lot of value from it. I also valued my direct interaction with the founder of my host company, who I found to be inspiring.”


Application Deadline & Program Dates

FALL 2025

 **Application Deadline**
24th Aug, 2025

 **Cohort Timing**
15th Sept, 2025

WINTER 2025

 **Application Deadline**
16th Nov, 2025

 **Cohort Timing**
8th Dec, 2025

SPRING 2026

 **Application Deadline**
8th February, 2026


 **Cohort Timing**
2nd March, 2026

SUMMER 2026

 **Application Deadline**
Early Admission: Regular Admission 1:
8th February, 2026 **13th April, 2026**
Priority Admission: Regular Admission 2:
8th March, 2026 **10th May, 2026**

 **Cohort Timing**
1st June, 2026

SUMMER II 2026

 **Application Deadline**
21st June, 2026

 **Cohort Timing**
13th July, 2026



Apply with this link:

<https://airtable.com/shrNdEykWdhc4yeSv>



To learn more or schedule a private info session, please reach out to us at

contact@ladderinternships.com