ROSIE & COMPANY GLOBAL

# Professional Career Guide

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# Professional Career Guide

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**Foreword**

Choosing a career path can feel overwhelming, especially when the most competitive opportunities often require students to prepare early, build relationships intentionally, and understand recruiting processes that are rarely explained clearly in the classroom.

This guide was created to make that process more accessible. It offers an inside look at several of the most sought-after early-career paths: consulting, investment banking, private equity, and technology. Rather than presenting any one path as the “right” answer, it is designed to help students understand what the work actually looks like, what internships demand, and how to position themselves thoughtfully for each opportunity.

The strongest candidates are not always those with every step mapped out from day one. They are the ones who remain curious, take initiative, seek advice from people with firsthand experience, and turn each internship, project, and conversation into a clearer understanding of where they can contribute most.

Use this guide as a starting point, not a blueprint. Explore widely, prepare early, and remember that a meaningful career is built through consistent momentum, not a single recruiting cycle.

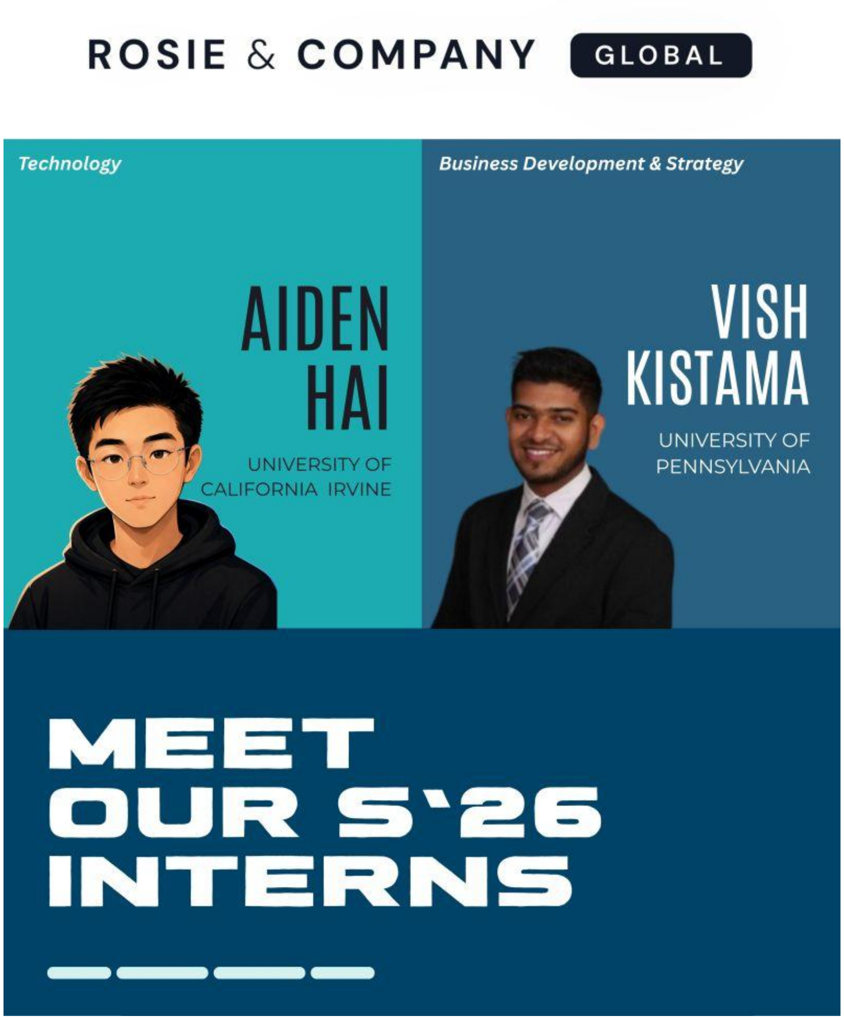
**Meet Our Interns**

Meet our interns, Aiden and Vish! **#InternSpotlight**

**Aiden Hai** is a senior at **UC Irvine** studying Cognitive Science and Informatics. He's working on Rosie's information architecture, AI assistant persona, prompt strategy, and the data pipeline behind our fine-tuned Ciao AI.

**Vish Kistama** is a junior at the **University of Pennsylvania** studying Economics. He's focused on audience growth, LinkedIn strategy, website engagement, and making Rosie's career content more human, useful, and data-driven.

Together, they're helping build Rosie & Co into an AI-powered professional intelligence platform for ambitious students and professionals.



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**Building Momentum Early: An Ivy League Student's Approach to Internships**

**How exploration, community, and consistency shape early career outcomes**

*By Vish Kistama*

For many students, the hardest part of building a career is not the technical preparation or even the application process. It is figuring out where to start.

Some students arrive on campus with a clear plan. Others take time to explore different paths before narrowing in. What matters more than starting point is how intentionally that time is used and how quickly small actions compound into real opportunities.

To better understand what that process looks like in practice, I spoke with Jiayi Xu, a student at the University of Pennsylvania whose experience spans private equity, marketing, and social impact. Her path reflects something that is increasingly true across industries today. Degrees alone are no longer enough. Students are expected to build experience, relationships, and clarity early on, often before they fully understand what they want to do

**Early Experiences Across Industries**

Jiayi's experience is not defined by a single path, but by range. She has worked in private equity at Spreckel's Capital, in marketing at SWAIR, and in social work and policy. This summer she will be at Udayan Care in New Delhi, India.

She approached early internships as a way to test different environments and understand how work actually operates across industries. As she put it, "I tried to keep an open mind early on and explore as much as possible before locking into anything."

That approach aligns with what we see more broadly. Early career exposure across different roles often helps students identify both strengths and gaps in real time, shaping more informed decisions later on. Instead of optimizing for prestige immediately, she optimized for learning.

**What Actually Gets You Your First Opportunities**

When asked what helped her get started, her answer was simple but important. "Honestly, it was mostly friends and community." This reflects a structural reality of recruiting that many students underestimate. A large share of opportunities are not publicly posted, and networking plays a central role in accessing them .

Jiayi's experience shows that community is foundational. Being surrounded by people who are applying, sharing opportunities, and pushing each other forward creates momentum that is difficult to replicate alone. She described it less as a strategy and more as an environment. "You just naturally hear about things, and that makes it easier to get started."

**Staying Organized When Everything Is Moving at Once**

One of the most overlooked parts of recruiting is not ability, but coordination. Managing applications, networking conversations, deadlines, and interviews quickly becomes overwhelming. Jiayi kept her system simple. She relied on her calendar to track everything and leaned on people around her for support. "I used my calendar for everything, and I asked friends and [Penn] career services to help me with my cover letters."

This kind of structure matters more than it seems. Students who actively use career resources, seek feedback, and track deadlines tend to navigate the process more effectively than those who approach it passively. Her approach shows us that even the best students do not need a perfect system.

**What Made Her Stand Out**

In competitive processes, most applicants have similar coursework, similar resumes, and similar levels of preparation. Differentiation comes from smaller, harder to measure factors.

For Jiayi, two stood out. "Networking and passion," she said directly.

Networking gave her access to conversations, referrals, and insight into roles. Passion showed up in how she spoke about her experiences and what she was genuinely interested in.

This matters because employers are not just evaluating qualifications. They are evaluating signals of initiative and long term interest. In a market where hundreds of students apply to the same roles, those signals often determine who moves forward.

**Building Experience Before You Feel Ready**

One of the most practical parts of her approach was how she built experience early, before she had a clear direction. “I was willing to take unpaid opportunities and just try things,” she said. “And I spent a lot of time talking to professionals.” This is a critical point. Many students wait for the “right” opportunity, often defined by pay or prestige. Jiayi focused instead on access and exposure.

That decision aligns with how the internship market actually works today. Even short or unpaid experiences can create meaningful advantages by building skills, relationships, and credibility, especially when formal opportunities are limited. Over time, those smaller experiences compound. They make it easier to tell a story, demonstrate interest, and position yourself for stronger roles.

**Advice for Students Trying to Build Momentum**

Her advice is grounded in perspective rather than tactics. “Everyone’s path is different. Some people know what they want right away, and others take time to figure it out.” Instead of comparing timelines, she emphasizes understanding your own starting point and working from there. “It’s really helpful to talk to early professionals and just take small opportunities, even if they feel like a waste of time at first.” Those early steps serve a larger purpose. They help answer a question that most students struggle with early on, which is whether a path actually fits. And once that clarity starts to build, everything else becomes more targeted. Applications improve, conversations become more specific, and opportunities begin to align more naturally.

**Conclusion**

Building a strong internship trajectory is less about following a fixed plan and more about creating momentum through consistent action. Jiayi’s experience shows that progress comes from exploring early, leveraging community, staying organized, and being willing to start before you feel fully ready. In a recruiting landscape where expectations are rising and competition is increasing, this kind of approach is increasingly necessary.


**Two perspectives from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Bain & Company**

*By Vish Kistama*

Consulting is one of the most competitive and widely pursued career paths, especially at top firms like Boston Consulting Group and Bain & Company. It is often associated with prestige, high-impact work, and strong exit opportunities. But while a lot is said about how to break into consulting, far less is said about what the work actually looks like once you are inside.

At its core, consulting is about helping organizations solve complex problems, whether that means shaping strategy, improving operations, or navigating major transitions. What makes the role unique is not just the problems themselves, but how they are approached. Consultants are expected to structure ambiguous questions, analyze large amounts of information, and translate that into clear, actionable recommendations under tight timelines.

To better understand how this plays out in practice, this article draws on perspectives from consultants at Boston Consulting Group and Bain & Company. Their experiences provide a closer look at how the work actually operates, what the day-to-day involves, and what it takes to succeed once you are in the role.

**What the Day-to-Day Actually Looks Like**

One of the most common answers you hear about consulting is that every day is different. That is true, but it misses the underlying structure that actually makes the work function.

At Boston Consulting Group, the variability sits on top of a very defined rhythm. Projects typically begin with kickoff meetings where the team aligns with the client on scope, priorities, and key stakeholders. From there, the work quickly becomes more structured. Consultants spend time with project leaders shaping the workplan, defining the key questions, and breaking a broad problem into smaller, logical workstreams. One consultant described this as one of the most intellectually engaging parts of the job because it requires holding the entire problem at once while mapping the most efficient path to an answer. Once that structure is set, much of the week is built around deep work. This includes digging into research, analyzing data, and building slides that translate findings into clear insights. The expectation to both analyze and push toward meaning. As they put it, a chart without a clear takeaway is a missed opportunity. This reflects a broader reality of consulting.

Another key part of the workflow is hypothesis-driven problem solving. Before going too deep into analysis, consultants often speak with industry experts to test whether they are even asking the right questions. This keeps the work focused and prevents teams from spending time on analysis that does not move the problem forward. At the same time, the role is highly client-facing. Consultants regularly interact with mid-level stakeholders to gather data, align on inputs, and share interim findings. These interactions require more than just technical skill. They require judgment, communication, and an understanding of how different stakeholders think about the problem. As projects progress, the pace tends to intensify. Teams move toward synthesizing their findings and preparing presentations for client leadership. These moments are high stakes. They require both analytical clarity and the ability to communicate recommendations clearly under pressure.

At Bain & Company, the day-to-day reflects the same structure but with constant variation in how time is spent. “Some days you’re in meetings with the client all day… other days, you’re deep in market research,” one consultant explained. That contrast is central to the role. One day may involve facilitating discussions between different parts of an organization. Another may involve building out a market view by piecing together fragmented data, estimating competitor size, or speaking with industry experts. Even though the tasks change, the objective stays the same. Every piece of work is tied back to solving a specific problem the client is facing.

Across both firms, the pattern becomes clear. The day-to-day is not random. It is a consistent cycle of structuring problems, gathering information, analyzing data, and communicating insights. The content changes, but the underlying system stays the same.

**What You Are Actually Doing**

At a high level, consulting is framed as solving complex business problems. In practice, the work is far more varied, and often much more grounded in real-world constraints than people expect.

At Boston Consulting Group, the work spans industries, geographies, and problem types. One consultant described working across public sector, energy, industrials, and corporate strategy engagements, often switching contexts quickly while applying the same underlying approach. What makes that work meaningful is the range and the depth. On one project, they worked with a

Southeast Asian government agency tackling unemployment and wage inequality. That required understanding labor markets, stakeholder incentives, and how policy decisions actually translate into outcomes on the ground. It pushed the work beyond analysis and into real-world impact. On another project, the focus shifted entirely. They built supply and demand forecasts for the maritime fuel sector, combining quantitative modeling with an understanding of regulatory and macroeconomic trends shaping the energy transition. In a different engagement, they supported a growth strategy for an oil and gas company operating under structural pressure, where the challenge included identifying opportunities, and determining where the company could realistically compete. Beyond strategy, the work also extended into operations and organizational design. Cost transformation projects required identifying where value was being lost within a business and prioritizing interventions. Post-merger restructuring exposed how softer factors such as culture, reporting structures, and capability gaps can determine whether a deal actually delivers value. Across all of this, the common thread was structured problem solving. The work consistently involved breaking down ambiguous questions, forming hypotheses, testing them with data and expert input, and translating that into recommendations clients could act on.

At Bain & Company, the industry exposure looks similarly broad, spanning sectors like utilities, aerospace and defense, consumer goods, and semiconductors. Despite that variation, the actual work tends to follow a consistent pattern. “I worked across a variety of industries… but the work can be pretty similar,” one consultant explained. That work centers on understanding markets, identifying trends, and building evidence to support decisions. A significant portion of time is spent on what they described as “data cracking,” working in tools like Excel or Alteryx, building presentations, and managing both client expectations and internal team dynamics. This reflects a key insight about consulting. While the industries change, the skill set does not. You are constantly gathering information, analyzing it, and turning it into a clear, structured story that supports a recommendation.

Across both firms, the takeaway is consistent. The job is less about having the right answer immediately and more about building a rigorous, defensible path to that answer, then communicating it in a way that drives action.

**What Surprises People Most**

Going into consulting, most people expect long hours, high pressure, and intellectually demanding work. All of that is real. What tends to surprise people is how different the experience feels once you are actually inside it.

At Boston Consulting Group, the biggest surprise was not the workload, but the people. “I came in expecting a high-pressure, somewhat sink-or-swim environment,” one consultant shared. “What I found instead was a genuine culture of mentorship.” That mentorship goes beyond technical guidance. It extends into how you think, how you structure problems, and how you communicate under pressure. Senior team members actively invest in your development, which fundamentally shapes how quickly you grow and how you approach the work long term. At the same time, the learning curve is steeper than most people anticipate. Even when things are going well, the job constantly pushes you to operate at the edge of your ability.

"Consulting has a way of placing you at the edge of your competence," they explained. That creates moments of real self-doubt. You are being evaluated while learning new skills, often under tight timelines. What makes that sustainable is having the internal support at the firm, and the external support system you have outside of work.

At Bain & Company, the surprise comes from a different angle. "You're doing a lot less 'answer cracking' in the first few years," one consultant noted. "A lot of times, the answer is decided by the partner... your job is to build the evidence."

This challenges a common assumption. Many students expect consulting to be about independently discovering the "right" answer. In reality, especially early on, the role is more about supporting and validating strategic direction using data, analysis, and structured thinking.

Over time, this starts to make more sense. Senior leaders have seen similar problems repeatedly and can often recognize patterns quickly. The value of junior team members lies in building the rigor behind those decisions and ensuring they are defensible and actionable.

Across both perspectives, the takeaway is consistent. What surprises people most is not the difficulty of the work, but how the work actually operates. It is more collaborative, more structured, and more development-focused than most expect, while also being more mentally demanding and less straightforward than it appears from the outside.

**How They Found the Role and Navigated the Process**

Breaking into consulting is highly structured, but the paths into it can look very different depending on timing, exposure, and network.

At Boston Consulting Group, the role came through a referral rather than traditional campus recruiting. One consultant was referred by a university hall mate and entered as an experienced hire, which shifted the process slightly but not the rigor. From there, the evaluation was still heavily case-driven. The process began with an online case chatbot assessment, followed by two rounds of interviews, each combining case and behavioral components. The first round involved partner-level interviewers, while the final rounds were conducted with more senior leadership.

This structure reflects how consulting firms evaluate candidates more broadly. Most processes include multiple stages such as screening, online assessments, and several rounds of case interviews designed to test problem-solving and communication under pressure.

At Bain & Company, the entry point came much earlier through campus exposure. "I joined a consulting club on campus... that's how I first learned about consulting," one consultant explained. That early exposure translated into a more traditional undergraduate recruiting path. The process started with a resume drop, followed by two rounds of interviews. The first round included case interviews with consultants and managers, while the second round involved more advanced cases with senior managers and partners.

**What Helped Them Stand Out**

In consulting, most candidates come in with strong academics and similar resumes. What differentiates people is not preparation, but how they demonstrate it.

At Boston Consulting Group, one consultant pointed directly to the quality and depth of their preparation. “My case practice rigour and my fit answers… less generic than the usual response,” they explained, noting that prior work experience allowed them to go beyond standard answers.

That distinction matters. Consulting interviews are not designed to reward memorized responses. They are designed to evaluate how candidates think, communicate, and apply past experiences in a structured way. Firms are explicitly looking for candidates who can explain their reasoning clearly and approach problems logically, rather than simply arrive at an answer.

At Bain & Company, the edge came from building those skills early and in applied settings. “I participated in a lot of case competitions… they’re basically mini consulting projects,” one consultant shared. Case competitions simulate the actual work consultants do. They require structuring ambiguous problems, working in teams, and presenting recommendations under time pressure. That experience translates directly into stronger performance in interviews, where firms are testing the same core skills. Beyond that, differentiation also came from bringing something distinct to the table. “I also think having a unique educational background helped,” they added, pointing to additional training in programming and language skills as ways to bring a different perspective.

**Conclusion**

Across both experiences, the takeaway is consistent. Consulting is centered around how you think, communicate, and operate under pressure. The work is demanding, but it is also one of the fastest ways to build problem-solving ability, exposure to industries, and professional judgment early in your career.

The people who move forward are not always the ones who know the most at the start. They are the ones who can learn, adapt, and execute quickly when the stakes are high. For students hoping to build that momentum themselves, this is where to begin. You can find resources on the **Consulting Resume Template** and a **Case Interview Sample Questions** list on [https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/](https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/) to get you started.

**Inside The Consulting Internship**

***The pace, structure, and expectations behind one of the most sought-after careers***

*By Vish Kistama*

Consulting is one of the most talked-about career paths on campus, often associated with strong exit opportunities, high-impact work, and exposure to a wide range of industries. At the same time, it is also one of the least clearly understood. Students hear about travel, long hours, and client work, but rarely get a clear sense of what the day-to-day experience actually looks like.

To better understand that reality, I spoke with a University of Pennsylvania student who recently completed an internship at a consulting firm in New York City about what their work weeks actually looked like, how their time was structured, and what the experience felt like in practice.

**Day-to-Day Life During the Internship**

From the way the experience was described, most days followed a fairly consistent rhythm. Mornings usually began around 8 or 9 a.m., with emails, stand-ups, and client-facing coordination setting the tone for the day. From there, the focus shifted into the core work itself: deliverables, technical components, proposals, estimates, project plans, status updates, and whatever else the team needed to move forward. By evening, work often stretched into the 7 to 10 p.m. range, sometimes with a short dinner break before logging back on for a few more hours.

What stood out most was that the workload was heavy, but not random. The week had a shape to it. Long weekdays were expected, especially from Monday through Thursday, but weekends were generally protected. That structure seemed to matter. The hours were real, but so was the sense that there was at least some boundary around them.

**The Work They Were Actually Doing**

The work itself was broader than many students probably imagine. It was not just sitting in meetings or shadowing full-time consultants. Interns were supporting real parts of the team's output, whether that meant contributing to deliverables, helping with proposals, drafting project plans, or assisting with technical and operational pieces of the engagement.

A large part of the role seemed to be learning how to produce work that was useful in a client setting. That meant being reliable, staying on top of shifting demands, and helping move projects along without needing constant direction. In addition to the formal work, there was also a strong emphasis on learning through the people around you. Asking thoughtful questions, observing how teams communicated, and using intern status to meet new people all seemed to be part of the job as well.

**What Surprised Them Most About Consulting**

What came through most clearly was the pressure of the environment. Even when the workflow was organized, the pace was demanding enough that it could still feel overwhelming. Long hours, client expectations, and the constant need to stay sharp made consulting feel like a job that could take up most of the week if you let it. One of the clearest tensions in the experience was the question of sustainability. Can you do this work well and still protect your personal life, your friendships, your hobbies, and your peace of mind? That seemed to be one of the hardest parts to figure out.

At the same time, the experience did not sound chaotic in the way some other competitive fields do. There was pressure, but there was also structure. The hours were long, but for many interns, weekends were still their own. That distinction matters, especially for students trying to compare consulting with other paths that demand intensity in a less predictable way.

**Finding the Role and Navigating the Application Process**

A typical consulting recruiting timeline starts much earlier than many students expect. For summer internships, firms often recruit nearly a year in advance, with some applications opening as early as spring and many key deadlines falling in the summer or early fall before junior year ends. After the application, candidates usually move through behavioral screening, case interviews, and in some cases multiple final rounds over the following weeks.

The recruiting process reflected the job itself: structured, competitive, and preparation-heavy. Candidates were expected to come in ready for both behavioral interviews and more analytical or case-based rounds. That meant having a strong resume, being able to explain your background clearly, think in a structured way, and perform well in a format designed to test how you approach unfamiliar problems.

Networking also appeared to matter. Referrals and internal connections could help, especially when paired with strong preparation and a credible background. But what came through most was that no one really drifted into consulting by accident. Students had to be deliberate, both in how they presented themselves and in how they prepared for the process.

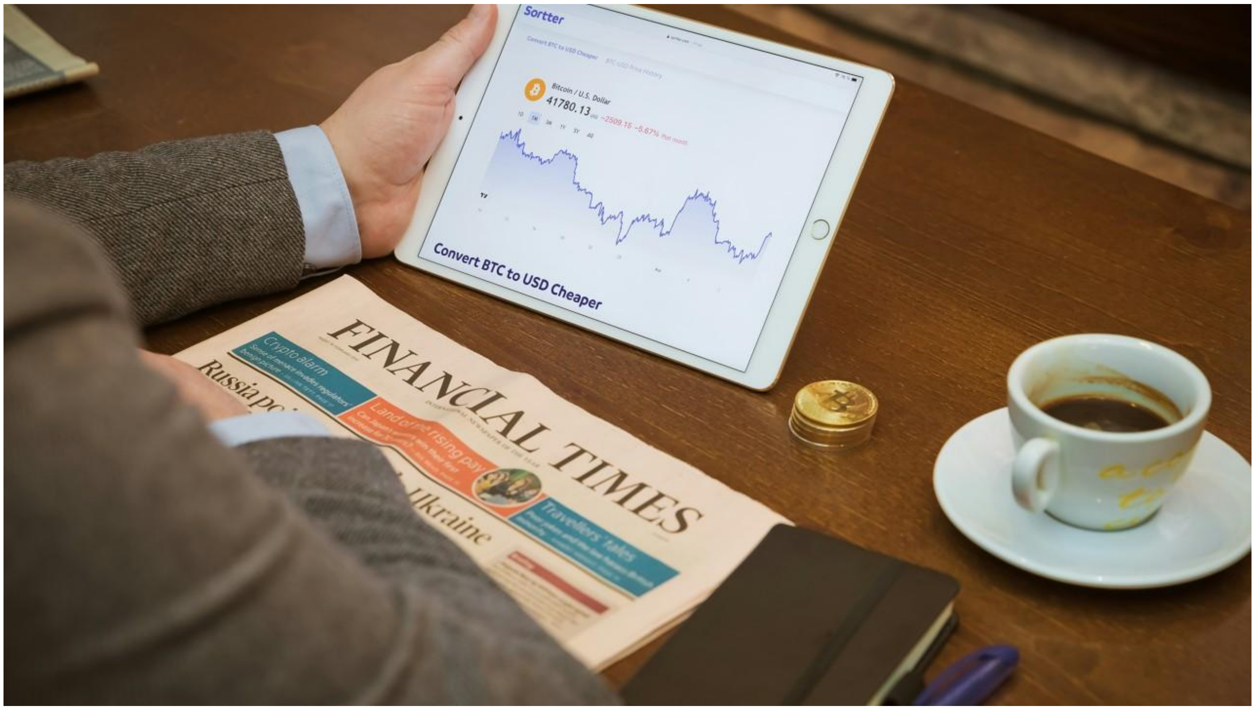
**What Helped Them Stand Out and Land the Internship**

What seemed to matter most was professionalism in the most practical sense of the word. Being on time, asking questions when needed, and showing that you could learn quickly all left an impression. That may sound simple, but in a setting where teams are moving quickly and expectations are high, those traits carry real weight.

There was also a relational side to succeeding in the role. Networking was about building enough trust that someone could vouch for you, guide you, or help you get connected to the right people. In a field built so heavily around client service and teamwork, that kind of credibility seemed to matter as much as raw technical ability.

In consulting, the hours are long, the expectations are high, and the pace can be demanding, but the strongest candidates are usually the ones who know what they are signing up for and prepare accordingly.

For students hoping to build that kind of momentum themselves, this is where to begin. You can find resources like a **consulting resume template** and **case interview practice questions** on [https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/](https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/) to help you prepare more deliberately.




**Inside a Career in Investment Banking**

**The pace, pressure, and expectations behind one of Wall Street's most analytical roles**

*By Vish Kistama*

Investment banking is often framed as one of the most prestigious career paths in finance, associated with high compensation, elite clients, and exposure to major corporate transactions. But while a lot is said about how to break into the industry, far less is said about what life in investment banking actually looks like once you are there.

To better understand that side of the story, I spoke with a University of Pennsylvania alumni currently working in investment banking about their day-to-day, what the work actually involves, what surprised them most once they started, and what it takes to land a role in the field.

**Day-to-Day Life in Investment Banking**

From the way they described it, most days follow a loose structure, but not in a predictable way.

Mornings usually start with checking emails, reviewing updates across deal teams, updating financial models, scheduling meetings, and aligning on priorities. But beyond that, the day quickly becomes reactive, depending on what deals are active and what clients need.

Most of the day is spent working on deliverables tied to live transactions. A large portion of that involves building or updating financial models, preparing presentations, and responding to feedback from senior bankers. These materials are constantly revised, sometimes multiple times a day, as new information comes in or as senior team members request changes.

Alongside that, there are frequent meetings and calls with internal teams and occasionally clients. These can take up a significant portion of the day, especially on active deals, which often pushes more focused work into the evening.

The schedule itself is highly unpredictable. New requests can come in at any time, and priorities can shift quickly depending on deal timelines or client demands. Most evenings are spent refining work, fixing details, and preparing materials for the next day, often late into the night.

There are also strong institutional resources that support the work. Teams such as internal research or library groups can help pull data quickly, and increasingly, AI tools trained on financial data are being used to reduce manual work and speed up analysis.

Still, the overall pace is intense. As they described it, you often feel like you are constantly moving between tasks, responding to requests, and being pulled in multiple directions at once.

**The Work That Actually Matters**

At a high level, the job is simple: help companies raise money or execute major financial transactions.

In practice, that includes advising companies on mergers and acquisitions, helping them raise capital through debt or equity, and analyzing financial performance to support these decisions.

A large portion of the work is execution-focused.

They described spending most of their time on:

- Financial modeling to evaluate companies and transactions
- Creating and revising pitchbooks used in client meetings
- Conducting company and industry research
- Supporting senior bankers across multiple workstreams

Much of this work is detail-oriented and iterative. Analysts often spend hours refining slides, adjusting numbers, and ensuring that every detail is accurate, because these materials are directly used in high-stakes client decisions.

At times, there is also exposure to more meaningful work, such as contributing directly to models used in live deals. But even then, the expectation is precision and reliability.

The work is less about generating ideas from scratch and more about executing complex processes at a high level, under tight deadlines.

**What Surprised Them Most About Investment Banking**

What surprised them most was not just the workload, but the nature of the environment itself.

The hours are as intense as people expect. Working 70 to 100 hours per week is common, especially when deals are active. But beyond the hours, it is the constant pressure that stands out.

Much of the work is detail-heavy, and everything feels important at once. There is an unspoken expectation that you will keep up, whether it is late at night or over a weekend.

The work is also highly reactive. Client demands and deal timelines drive everything, meaning priorities can change instantly and work often needs to be redone on short notice.

At the same time, the structure is very hierarchical. Junior bankers focus on execution, while senior bankers manage client relationships and overall strategy.

It is a demanding environment, but one that forces you to develop discipline, resilience, and a strong work ethic quickly.

**Finding the Role and Navigating the Process**

Their path into the role was relatively standard, but still competitive.

They first gained exposure through networking, which played a key role in securing interviews. From there, they went through multiple rounds, including both behavioral and technical interviews.

Technical preparation was critical. Interviews tested understanding of:

- Financial statements
- Valuation methods
- Deal mechanics

But beyond that, communication played a major role. Being able to clearly explain past experiences and walk through technical concepts step-by-step made a difference.

They also noted that being at Penn provided a strong advantage, given the access to recruiting resources, information sessions, and pre-professional communities that help students prepare for the process.

**What Helped Them Stand Out**

When I asked what helped them stand out, their answer was direct.

Preparation was a major factor. Many of the technical questions were manageable because they aligned with concepts they had already practiced extensively.

Attention to detail also mattered. Small mistakes in models or presentations can signal a lack of discipline, which is a major red flag in the role.

Beyond that, communication was key. Being able to explain ideas clearly, especially under pressure, helped them differentiate themselves.

Finally, persistence and networking played an important role. Breaking into investment banking is highly competitive, and having someone advocate for you can make a meaningful difference.

**Beyond the Work**

One thing they emphasized that often gets overlooked is what exists outside the work itself.

Investment banking can feel like a kind of "school after school." You spend so much time with your team that the relationships you build become real and personal.

On strong teams, those relationships extend beyond the office. They described moments where teammates showed up for things outside of work, like celebrating birthdays or spending time together after long weeks.

Those bonds often become one of the most valuable parts of the experience.

Even as people move on to private equity, hedge funds, or other paths, those relationships tend to last. In many ways, they are just as important as the technical skills or deal experience gained along the way.

**Conclusion**

If there is one lesson from their experience, it is that investment banking is about executing high-stakes work with precision, under intense time pressure, and constantly adapting to new demands.

The people who succeed are not just technically strong. They are the ones who can handle long hours, stay detail-oriented, and consistently deliver high-quality work even when expectations are constantly shifting.

For professionals looking to build that kind of momentum themselves, this is a good place to start. At Rosie & Co, we are building resources designed to make career growth more practical and more accessible. You can find tools like IB resume examples and technical interview questions on [https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/](https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/) to help you sharpen your positioning and approach the next step with more clarity.

## Inside The Investment Banking Internship

***The pace, pressure, and preparation behind one of finance's most competitive roles***

*By Vish Kistama*

Few industries carry the same mix of fascination and intimidation on campus as investment banking. For many students interested in finance, it represents one of the most visible and competitive entry points into the industry: a world of demanding hours, fast-moving deals, and exceptionally high expectations. It is a path that is constantly discussed, but not always fully understood.

To get a clearer sense of what the role looks like in practice, I spoke with a recent University of Pennsylvania graduate who did her sophomore summer internship at an investment banking firm and asked to remain anonymous. We spoke about what the internship actually involved, how the recruiting process worked, what surprised them most once they started, and what it really takes to stand out in such a competitive field. Beneath the prestige and polish was a job that asked for adaptability, humility, and a willingness to keep up even when the pace felt unforgiving.

### Day-to-Day Life During the Internship

No two days looked exactly the same, she told me, but nearly every day required her to be switched on from the moment she logged in. Some days revolved around updating materials, turning comments quickly, and helping prepare presentations tied to live deals or client meetings. On other days, the work was more research-heavy, whether that meant digging into a company, following market developments, or finding information the team needed on short notice.

What stayed constant was the speed. Things moved quickly, and often simultaneously. A task could seem straightforward at first, then suddenly become urgent because it was tied to a live process or a senior banker's request. She described having to get comfortable with that unpredictability early on. The job was about learning how to stay calm, sharp, and responsive while the work kept changing around you.

**The Work She Was Actually Doing**

One of the biggest misconceptions, she said, is that interns are mostly observing from the sidelines. In reality, she was contributing to work that the team actually used. That included supporting pitch materials, working with financial and company information, helping with research, and assisting in the preparation of materials connected to ongoing deals or client conversations.

What stood out from the way she described the work was the standard it had to meet. It had to be clean, accurate, and immediately usable. She became much more aware of how much banking depends on presentation, not in the superficial sense, but in the sense that even strong analysis loses value if it is messy, unclear, or poorly timed. A lot of the learning came from realizing how high the bar was for even the smallest deliverables.

**What Surprised Her Most About Investment Banking**

What surprised her most was how much the job depended on endurance. Before the internship, she expected investment banking to be technical, and it was. But once she was actually in the role, what struck her was how much of the experience came down to stamina, attention to detail, and consistency under pressure.

She spoke less about dramatic moments and more about the cumulative intensity of the work. The pressure did not always come from one huge deadline. Sometimes it came from the fact that everything mattered at once, and there was an unspoken expectation that you would keep up. Even small mistakes could create extra work for other people, so there was a constant need to be careful. That, more than anything, changed the way she thought about the field. It stopped feeling like a glamorous finance path from the outside and started feeling like a real job.

**Finding the Role and Navigating the Application Process**

Like the industry itself, the recruiting process was intense. By the time many students were just beginning to think seriously about the next summer, she was already paying attention to deadlines, networking with professionals at the firm, refining her resume, and getting technically ready. The process itself unfolded in stages. First came the application, then early screening conversations and interview rounds that tested both fit and fundamentals. By the final stage, the pressure had intensified into several back-to-back conversations where she had to speak clearly about her interest in banking, walk through technical concepts, and show that she could handle a fast, demanding environment. From her experience, it was clear that networking mattered, technical preparation mattered, and being able to explain why investment banking, and why you, mattered just as much.

What seemed especially difficult was how easy it was to feel behind. Banking recruiting has a way of making students feel as though everyone else already knows the rules, already has polished answers, and already understands the process better than they do. But from her perspective, the students who navigated it best were not always the loudest or the most naturally confident. They were often the ones who stayed organized, followed up consistently, kept track of deadlines, and continued preparing even when the process felt confusing or opaque. There was no single shortcut, no one perfect coffee chat, and no one perfect answer that guaranteed anything; rather consistency was the key.

**What Helped Her Stand Out and Land the Internship**

In a space as competitive as investment banking, many candidates look strong on paper. The difference, she suggested, often comes down to who can make that strength feel real in conversation. For her, that meant being able to walk through her resume confidently, explain why each experience mattered, and connect those experiences back to the kind of work banking requires: working quickly, handling pressure, paying attention to detail, and staying composed in professional settings. She also emphasized the importance of being technically prepared enough that she was not thrown off by accounting or valuation questions, while still sounding like a person rather than a script. What seemed to help most was showing that she was polished, genuinely interested, and ready for the pace and pressure of the role.

If there is one lesson from her experience, it is that investment banking rewards students who are intentional long before recruiting becomes urgent. By the time interviews begin, the strongest candidates usually are not scrambling to catch up. They already understand the timeline, know what banks look for, and have spent time refining both their story and their preparation. In that sense, breaking into investment banking does not solely rely on talent, but also momentum.

For students hoping to build that momentum themselves, this is where to begin. You can find resources on the **IB resume template** and a **technical interview sample questions** list on [https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/](https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/) to get you started.


**Inside a Career in Private Equity**

**The pace, pressure, and deal-driven reality behind 60–80 hour weeks in private equity**

*By Vish Kistama*

Private equity is often positioned as one of the most prestigious paths in finance, associated with high compensation, elite firms, and long-term wealth creation. But while there is a lot of focus on how to break into private equity, far less attention is given to what the work actually looks like once you are in the role.

To better understand that reality, I spoke with a University of Pennsylvania alumnus currently working at a private equity firm in New York City, who transitioned into the industry after four years in consulting. His experience, combined with broader industry insights, offers a clearer picture of what working in private equity actually involves.

**Day-to-Day Life in Private Equity**

From the way he described it, most days revolve around the deal process and follow a structured but demanding rhythm.

Mornings usually start with reviewing emails, industry news, and potential investment opportunities coming in from banks or internal sourcing efforts. From there, the majority of the day shifts into analytical work, including building or updating financial models, reviewing company financials, and working through data rooms to understand a business in depth.

Throughout the day, there are also internal discussions with deal teams and external calls with bankers, consultants, or management teams. Evenings are often spent refining models, preparing presentations, or writing investment memos that support investment decisions.

While the structure remains consistent, the intensity depends heavily on deal activity. During live deals, hours can extend significantly, reflecting how time-sensitive and high-stakes the work becomes.

**The Work That Actually Matters**

At its core, private equity is about making investment decisions, and most of the work is built around evaluating whether a company is worth acquiring.

At the junior level, this translates into a heavy focus on analysis. He described spending a large portion of his time building financial models, analyzing company performance, and conducting industry research to assess potential investments. A key part of the role is also coordinating due diligence, which involves working with consultants, lawyers, and other external partners to validate assumptions and uncover risks.

What stood out most was the emphasis on synthesis. The job involves collecting information, and turning it into a clear perspective. This often takes the form of investment memos that help senior team members decide whether to move forward with a deal.

There is also some involvement in portfolio work after investments are made, including tracking company performance and supporting strategic decisions. The role is less about generating ideas independently and more about rigorously evaluating opportunities and contributing to decisions where capital is actually at risk.

**What Surprised Him Most About Private Equity**

A large portion of the job is spent in Excel, reviewing documents, and refining assumptions rather than making high-level strategic decisions. While private equity is often seen as a step up from consulting or banking, the workload remains intense, especially during active deals.

He also pointed out that the long-term upside is less guaranteed than people assume. Compensation at senior levels depends heavily on fund performance and staying at a firm long enough to benefit from carry, which introduces uncertainty into what is often portrayed as a straightforward path.

At the same time, responsibility comes earlier than expected. Because teams are small, junior work directly feeds into real investment decisions.

Over time, the role evolves significantly. As professionals become more senior, the focus shifts away from analysis and toward sourcing deals, building relationships, and managing investors.

**Finding the Role and Navigating the Process**

His path into private equity followed a less traditional route compared to the typical investment banking pipeline. After spending four years in consulting, he leveraged both deal-related experience and networking to make the transition.

Breaking into private equity is highly structured and competitive. Most candidates are sourced through recruiters and headhunters, who act as gatekeepers to the process.

The interview process itself is intense and fast-moving. Candidates typically go through multiple rounds that test financial modeling, valuation, and deal experience, along with case studies that require forming an actual investment view. Behavioral interviews also play a key role in assessing communication and fit.

In many cases, timelines are extremely compressed, with candidates expected to move quickly through interviews and make decisions under pressure.

### What Helped Him Stand Out

When I asked what helped him stand out, his answer focused less on credentials and more on how he approached problems.

Technical skills were important, but expected. What differentiated him was his ability to think like an investor by identifying risks, understanding business models, and forming a clear perspective on whether an investment made sense.

His consulting background also played a role. It gave him experience working on complex problems, communicating clearly, and structuring ambiguous situations, all of which translated well into private equity. Transitions from consulting are less common but increasingly viable when candidates can demonstrate deal exposure and relevant skills.

Attention to detail and reliability were also critical, especially given the small team structure. With fewer layers of review, the quality of individual work matters more.

Finally, networking played a significant role. Building relationships within the industry was essential to accessing opportunities and navigating a process that is often not visible through traditional job postings.

### Conclusion

If there is one takeaway from his experience, it is that private equity is a career built on judgment, ownership, and consistency. The people who succeed are not only technically strong, but are able to think independently, handle pressure, and contribute to decisions where the stakes are real.

For professionals looking to build that kind of momentum themselves, this is a good place to start. At Rosie & Co, we are building resources designed to make career growth more practical and more accessible. You can find tools like **PE Resume Examples** and **Technical Interview Questions** on

**https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/** to help you sharpen your positioning and approach the next step with more clarity.


## Inside The Private Equity Internship

***The analysis, judgment, and reality behind one of finance's most selective roles***

*By Vish Kistama*

Private equity holds a different kind of reputation on campus. While industries like investment banking are visible, structured, and widely discussed, private equity is quieter, more selective, and often harder to understand from the outside. It is seen as the next step, the buy-side destination, the place where investment decisions are made rather than executed. But that perception can make the role feel more polished than it actually is.

To better understand what working in private equity looks like in practice, I spoke with a University of Pennsylvania student who recently completed a private equity internship and asked to remain anonymous. We discussed what their day-to-day looked like, the kind of work they were actually doing, what surprised them most once they started, and what it takes to break into such a competitive and opaque field.

### Day-to-Day Life During the Internship

Unlike more structured internships, private equity felt fluid. There was no fixed schedule or predictable set of tasks. Instead, the day depended heavily on what deals were active and what the team needed at that moment.

Mornings were often spent reviewing industry news, tracking portfolio company performance, or catching up on ongoing workstreams. As the day progressed, the focus shifted toward deeper analytical work that included researching industries, analyzing companies, or supporting diligence processes. Afternoons frequently involved internal discussions, check-ins with associates, or reviewing materials tied to potential investments.

What stood out most was how fragmented the work could be. Rather than focusing on a single project, the intern described constantly moving between tasks across different deals. This reflected the broader nature of private equity work, where teams evaluate opportunities, conduct due diligence, and monitor investments simultaneously.

The pace was not always outwardly chaotic, but it required a constant level of attentiveness. Even small tasks could become important if they fed into a larger investment decision.

**The Work They Were Actually Doing**

One of the biggest misconceptions about private equity internships is that interns are deeply involved in high-level investing decisions. In reality, the work is more granular. The intern described contributing to a range of tasks, including market research, analyzing financial statements, assisting with due diligence, and preparing materials for investment discussions. These responsibilities mirror the broader investment process, which includes sourcing deals, evaluating companies, and monitoring portfolio performance.

However, their role was typically focused on specific pieces of larger analyses. They might work on a portion of a financial model, compile data for a diligence report, or benchmark companies within an industry. Rarely were they responsible for building full analyses independently.

What mattered most was not ownership, but precision. The work had to be clean, accurate, and immediately usable by more senior team members. Over time, they became more aware that even small contributions could influence how an investment was evaluated.

**What Surprised Them Most About Private Equity**

Before the internship, they expected private equity to be highly technical, centered around financial modeling and valuation. While those elements were present, what stood out more was the broader nature of the work.

A significant portion of time was spent on research, diligence, and synthesizing information rather than purely building models. This aligned with the reality that private equity professionals are not only analyzing numbers, but forming investment judgments based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative insights.

Another surprise was the environment itself. Private equity is inherently competitive, but not always in obvious ways. Information is valuable, access to deals is limited, and performance is closely observed. The intern described a setting where attention to detail and consistency mattered as much as technical ability.

Perhaps most importantly, the experience challenged the perception of private equity as purely strategic or high-level. Much of the work involved careful, incremental analysis that contributed to larger decisions over time. It felt less like making bold investment calls and more like building the foundation that allows those decisions to be made.

**Finding the Role and Navigating the Application Process**

Breaking into private equity looked very different from more structured recruiting pipelines. Unlike investment banking, where applications and timelines are standardized, private equity recruiting is often fragmented and relationship-driven.

The intern found their role primarily through networking, so reaching out to professionals, building connections, and staying aware of opportunities that were not widely advertised. This reflects a broader reality: many private equity internships, especially at smaller firms, are filled informally rather than through large-scale recruiting processes.

The interview process itself varied by firm but typically included both behavioral and technical components. Candidates were expected to demonstrate a strong understanding of financial concepts, including valuation and leveraged buyouts, while also explaining their interest in investing.

What made the process challenging was not just the technical difficulty, but the lack of transparency. Without a clear structure, candidates often had to navigate timelines, expectations, and preparation strategies on their own.

**What Helped Them Stand Out and Land the Internship**

In a field where many candidates have strong academic backgrounds and relevant experience, standing out required more than technical ability.

The intern emphasized the importance of being able to clearly explain their experiences and connect them to the work private equity requires. This meant demonstrating both analytical skills, and an understanding of how businesses operate and how investments are evaluated.

Equally important was showing genuine interest in investing itself. Being able to discuss industries, think critically about companies, and articulate why an investment might succeed or fail helped differentiate them from other candidates.

Finally, persistence played a significant role. Because opportunities are often not openly advertised, securing the internship required consistent outreach, follow-ups, and a willingness to navigate an uncertain process.

If investment banking is about executing transactions, private equity is about deciding which transactions are worth pursuing in the first place. But that distinction, while accurate, can be misleading in its simplicity.

The internship revealed a role grounded both in constant high-level decision-making, but in careful analysis, collaboration, and incremental contributions to complex investment processes. It is a field that rewards intelligence, but also patience, attention to detail, and the ability to think critically over time.

For students interested in private equity, the lesson is to prepare technically, but to understand how investing actually works in practice. The strongest candidates are not only those who can build models, but those who can interpret what those models mean and communicate it clearly.

In that sense, breaking into private equity is not only about mastering finance. You have to learn how to think like an investor long before you are ever asked to make the decision yourself.

For students hoping to build that momentum themselves, this is where to begin. You can find resources on the **PE resume template** and a **technical interview sample questions** list on **https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/** to get you started.

**Inside a Career in Tech**

***The pace, progression, and expectations behind one of today's most dynamic careers***

*By Vish Kistama*

Tech is often framed as one of the most attractive career paths today, associated with strong compensation, rapid growth, and the opportunity to work on products at global scale. But while a lot is said about how to break into the industry, far less is said about what life in tech actually looks like once you are there.

To better understand that side of the story, I spoke with a professional currently working at Microsoft about their day-to-day, how work in tech evolves over time, what drives long-term growth in the field, and what people often misunderstand about building a career in the industry.

**Day-to-Day Life in Tech**

From the way he described it, most days follow a loose structure, but not in a rigid or predictable way. Mornings usually start with a short stand-up where the team aligns on priorities, flags blockers, and coordinates across projects. Beyond that, there are a few recurring touchpoints throughout the week, things like office hours with senior engineers for debugging support or sessions where more experienced team members walk through system design and internal tools.

Most of the day, though, is spent working independently. A large portion of his time goes into handling incidents, which means investigating issues that show up in production. That often involves digging through logs, querying data, and referencing past cases to figure out what might be going wrong. Once he has a working theory, he tests it and works with other teams to validate and implement a fix.

Alongside that, he works on smaller tasks like bug fixes or incremental improvements. These usually involve navigating a large, existing codebase, figuring out where the issue lives, and proposing a solution. Before implementing anything, he often checks his approach with a more experienced engineer, especially when the system is complex or unfamiliar.

**The Work That Actually Matters**

What stood out most was how incremental a lot of the work can feel, especially early on. He described working on issues that were not always deeply complex. Things like handling edge cases, improving logging, or fixing small bugs that affect how systems behave in production.

A lot of the work is tied to real user behavior. Sometimes issues come from customers misusing features, hitting constraints in the system, or running into temporary errors. Part of the job is figuring out what went wrong, whether it needs a fix, and how to prevent it from happening again.

He also mentioned spending time on documentation, including large efforts to rewrite or improve existing materials for users. While it might not sound as visible as building new features, it plays a big role in how people actually interact with the product.

The work is less about building something entirely new every day and more about maintaining, improving, and stabilizing systems that are already in use.

**What Surprised Him Most About Working in Tech**

What surprised him most was not the technical side, but the environment around it.

He described the work-life balance as very flexible, with relatively low day-to-day stress compared to what he expected going in. At the same time, that flexibility came with less structure. There was not always a clear sense of what the top priority was, and onboarding did not always provide enough context to fully understand the systems or the codebase early on.

Another thing he pointed out was the lack of consistent, detailed feedback. Without clearly defined goals or structured evaluation, it can be difficult to know how you are performing or what specifically to improve. Over time, that can make career progression feel less predictable than expected.

The biggest shift for him was realizing that success in tech is not always driven by tightly defined outcomes or constant oversight. Instead, it requires a level of self-direction and being able to navigate ambiguity, figure things out independently, and keep moving forward even when expectations are not fully spelled out.

**Finding the Role and Navigating the Process**

His path into the role was relatively straightforward, but still required preparation. He applied after seeing an opening and was able to get a referral through a friend at the company. From there, the process moved through an online assessment followed by three interviews: one behavioral and two technical.

What stood out was how quickly things moved once he signaled competing offers. After letting the team know he had another option, they accelerated their timeline and got back to him the same day with a decision.

He described the process as smooth, but still dependent on being prepared for both sides of the interview: technical problem-solving and clear communication about past experiences.

**What Helped Him Stand Out**

When I asked what helped him stand out, his answer was fairly direct.

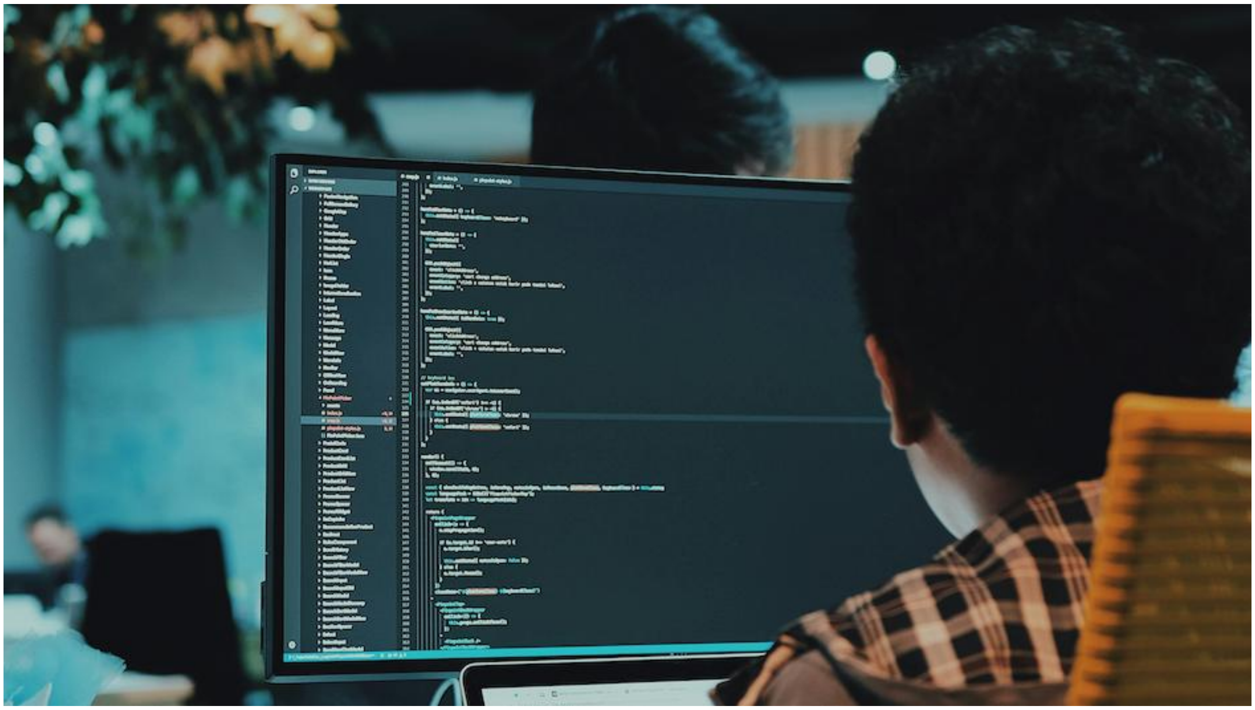
Part of it came down to preparation, especially on the behavioral side. Coming from a consulting background, he was comfortable spieaking about client needs, communicating clearly, and framing his experiences in a way that made sense to the team. That gave him an edge in interviews that go beyond purely technical questions.

He also pointed out that the technical questions themselves were manageable, partly because they aligned with problems he had already practiced or seen before. In that sense, performance was not just about raw ability, but about familiarity and preparation.

More than anything, what seemed to matter was being able to combine both sides; showing that he could solve problems technically, while also communicating clearly and thinking about the end user.

If there is one lesson from his experience, it is that building a career in tech depends on far more than simply landing the role. Once you are in, growth comes from how well you handle ambiguity, how clearly you communicate, and how consistently you take ownership of your work. The people who build real momentum are rarely the ones waiting for perfect structure or constant direction. They are the ones learning in real time, adapting quickly, and finding ways to create value even when the path is not fully laid out for them.

For professionals looking to build that kind of momentum themselves, this is a good place to start. At Rosie & Co, we are building resources designed to make career growth more practical and more accessible. You can find tools like **Tech Resume Examples** and **Common Technical Interview Questions** on [https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/](https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/) to help you sharpen your positioning and approach the next step with more clarity.



**Inside The Tech Internship**

***The building, debugging, and reality behind one of tech's most in-demand roles***

*By Vish Kistama*

Among students, software engineering stands out as one of the most accessible yet competitive paths into a high-impact industry. Unlike fields such as finance or consulting, where recruiting can feel opaque or network-driven, software engineering is often perceived as meritocratic: if you can code, you can compete. It is a field associated with innovation, product-building, and the ability to create tangible outcomes from technical skill.

But that perception can oversimplify what the role actually involves. Beneath the surface of clean interfaces and polished products is a workflow shaped by iteration, collaboration, and problem-solving within complex systems.

To better understand what working in software engineering looks like in practice, I spoke with a University of Pennsylvania student who recently completed a software engineering internship and asked to remain anonymous. We discussed what their day-to-day looked like, the kind of work they were actually doing, what surprised them most once they started, and what it takes to break into such a competitive field.

What emerged was a role that is less about writing code in isolation and more about learning how to think, communicate, and build within a larger system.

**Day-to-Day Life During the Internship**

No two days looked exactly the same, but most followed a consistent rhythm built around coding and collaboration.

A large portion of the day was spent writing, testing, and debugging code. This formed the core of the internship experience. Alongside this, there were regular meetings, including stand-ups, team syncs, and one-on-one check-ins, which helped align work and address any blockers. The remaining time was spent researching solutions, reading documentation, or reviewing code.

A typical day often began with a stand-up meeting, where the intern would outline their progress and plan for the day. Midday was usually reserved for focused coding work, while afternoons involved debugging, receiving feedback, or participating in smaller meetings.

One of the most important parts of the experience was not writing new code, but understanding the existing codebase. Real-world systems are complex and interconnected, and even small changes required careful consideration of how different components interacted.

**The Work They Were Actually Doing**

The work was hands-on, but clearly scoped.

Rather than building entire products from scratch, the intern focused on contributing to specific parts of a larger system. This included implementing small features, fixing bugs, writing tests, refactoring existing code, and working with data or APIs depending on the team's needs.

A key skill developed during the internship was learning how to take a vague or open-ended problem and break it down into smaller, manageable steps that could be implemented in code.

While the intern was contributing real, production-level code, their work typically represented one piece of a broader system. The emphasis was not on ownership of entire projects, but on delivering reliable, well-integrated contributions that fit within an existing structure.

**What Surprised Them Most About Software Engineering**

Before starting the internship, they expected the role to be primarily about coding.

What stood out most was that coding itself was often not the hardest part. Instead, a significant amount of time was spent reading existing code, understanding how different systems connected, and debugging issues.

Another major surprise was how important communication was. The intern frequently needed to ask questions, explain their approach, and collaborate with teammates. Software engineering was not an isolated activity, but a highly collaborative one where problems were often solved collectively.

Debugging also played a much larger role than expected. Rather than constantly building new features, much of the work involved fixing issues, testing solutions, and tracing the root causes of problems. This required patience and persistence more than speed.

Finally, the intern noted that they were not expected to know everything from the start. Getting stuck, asking for help, and learning quickly were all considered normal parts of the process. Progress was valued more than perfection.

**Finding the Role and Navigating the Application Process**

Compared to some other industries, the software engineering recruiting process was more structured, but still highly competitive.

The intern primarily found opportunities through online applications, including company websites and platforms such as LinkedIn. Referrals and networking also played a meaningful role in increasing visibility and improving chances of securing interviews.

The process itself typically involved several stages. After submitting an application, candidates often completed an online coding assessment. This was followed by technical interviews, where they were asked to solve problems involving data structures and algorithms, often in a live coding format. Behavioral interviews were also included to assess communication skills and cultural fit.

One of the defining aspects of the process was the need to explain one's thinking while solving problems. It was not enough to arrive at the correct answer; candidates needed to clearly communicate their approach.

Recruiting timelines were also earlier than many students expected, with larger companies opening applications in the fall and smaller firms hiring later in the academic year.

**What Helped Them Stand Out and Land the Internship**

In a field where many candidates have similar technical preparation, standing out required more than coding ability.

The intern emphasized the importance of having strong fundamentals in data structures, algorithms, and clean coding practices. These formed the baseline for both interviews and on-the-job performance.

Beyond that, projects played a critical role. Being able to demonstrate that they had built real applications or systems showed initiative and the ability to apply concepts in practice.

Communication was another key differentiator. During interviews, clearly explaining their thought process and reasoning through problems helped distinguish them from candidates who focused solely on arriving at the correct solution.

Consistent preparation also mattered. Rather than relying on last-minute studying, the intern had spent time practicing coding problems over an extended period, which helped them build both confidence and fluency.

Finally, curiosity and a willingness to learn stood out. Asking thoughtful questions, being open to feedback, and showing genuine interest in building and improving systems helped signal that they would be effective contributors in a team environment.

If fields like finance are centered on analyzing or executing decisions, software engineering is about building the systems that make those decisions possible. But the role is less about constant creation and more about iteration: improving, debugging, and refining systems over time.

The internship revealed that success in software engineering is not defined solely by technical ability. It also depends on communication, persistence, and the ability to work within complex, evolving systems.

For students hoping to build that momentum themselves, this is where to begin. You can find resources on the **Software Engineering resume template** and a **technical interview sample questions** list on **https://www.rosiecoglobal.com/** to get you started.

**What Building Perpetua Has Taught Me About Being a Founder**

**By Jacqueline Deprey, Co-Founder and CEO of Perpetua**

I didn't set out to be an entrepreneur. As the daughter of an immigrant mother, I grew up learning to prioritize stability and find work at the intersection of what I enjoyed doing, what I was good at, and what paid well.

I initially found that intersection as a software engineer. Although I'm not sure if I ever loved coding itself, I loved learning how technology could improve people's lives and I wanted to build systems that made a positive impact on those around me.

At Dropbox, that meant spending time on a question most people rarely considered: what happens to your data after you are gone. I led a cross-functional team spanning Legal, IT, and Platform Engineering to tackle data retention and disposition for departed employees. This process included investigating how the company could retain information relevant to the product and services we were building while protecting the privacy of the individuals who had since left the company.

When my family experienced our own loss though, the absence of this corporate solution for data retention for families became impossible to ignore. This problem became my personal mission: how could I apply my corporate learnings to help individuals take control of their digital legacies and reduce the administrative burden on families during their time of grief.

Because that is what being a founder is all about: combining a problem you are passionate about solving, with your unique skillset, to something that people are willing to pay for.

**For anyone considering this career path, first consider problems you are passionate about solving.**

You will spend far more time with this problem than you expect. You will think about it beyond normal working hours and progress towards its solution won't always match the effort you put in.

Caring about the problem you serve and the people it impacts becomes a powerful motivator when progress is slow. It also makes it easier to separate yourself from any initial solution ideas.

While a solution might feel intuitive to you, it can still miss what other people need or are ready to adopt. By staying curious about their pain points and experiences, it can be easier to say objective and pivot approaches when the evidence calls for it.

At Perpetua, we spent a year speaking with estate executors, estate attorneys, surrogate court clerks, professional fiduciaries, and hospice workers to understand what made the existing estate settlement process so difficult. As our interviewees described their current processes, we sensed feelings of anxiety even in the most prepared individuals we spoke to. Further conversations revealed that the core problem was the ongoing worry "is there anything still out there?"

**Second, think about problems you are uniquely qualified to solve.**

These skills are often referred to in the entrepreneurial world as "earned insights": knowledge developed through working directly on a problem or experiencing it yourself. In this post-AI world, anyone can build anything in a matter of time. When investors decide to fund a company or consumers decide to buy a product, they aren't just taking a bet on the solution, the early stakeholders are taking a bet on you as an individual. What about your background sets you apart from a similar competitor?

For us at Perpetua, working on privacy and data systems at Apple and Dropbox taught us to carefully consider what information a product needs and who should have access to it so we could earn the trust from our customers that their identities would be protected when using our systems in their time of need. Having seen our families go through the estate settlement process also gave us direct insights to the pain points we were solving.

**Third, understand what people are willing to pay for.**

Someone can care about your problem and like your idea without becoming a customer. Understanding how they manage today, what that difficulty costs them, and what would make trying a new approach worthwhile. Listen for the differences between what they find frustrating and what they are ready to spend money to address. Successful companies need a way to bring in revenue to offset the expenses of offering the product/service.

Thinking back to how I was raised, I still value stability. Leaving an established career to build a company means accepting uncertainty around my income and whether the business will succeed. But I keep thinking about the families spending their evenings piecing together what their loved ones left behind. Building Perpetua gives me a way to apply my earned insights to ease that burden, and our early customers give me reason to believe the effort is worth it. For me, the opportunity to make this administrative process easier for families in their time of grief is worth the uncertainty.

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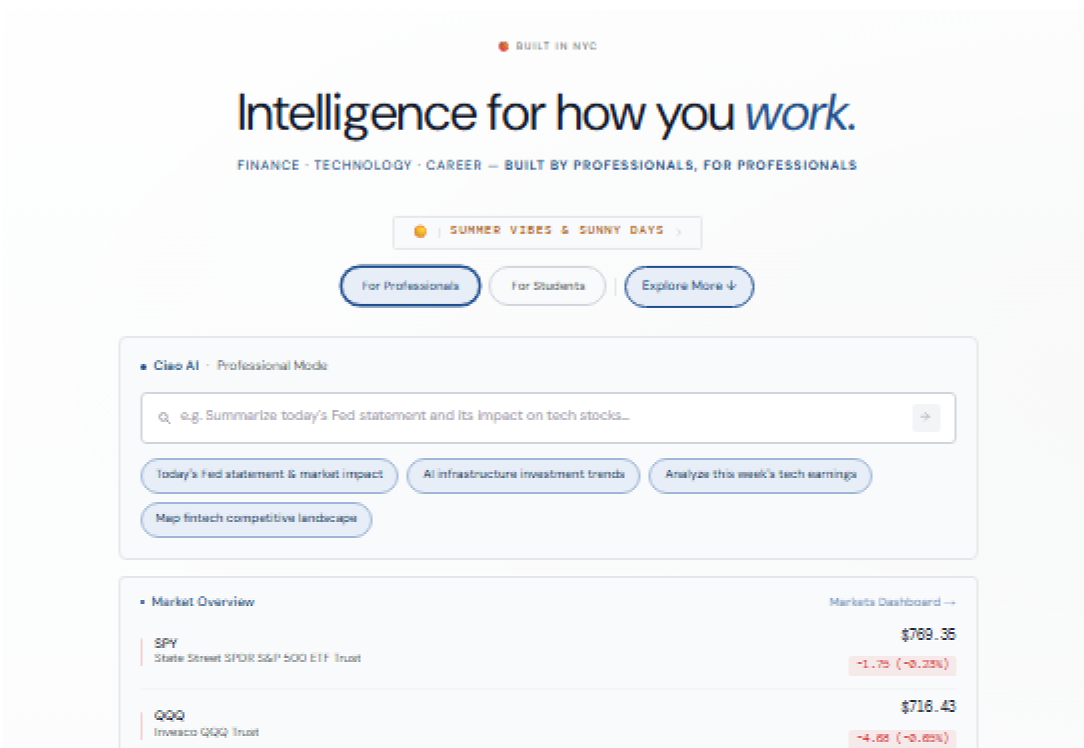

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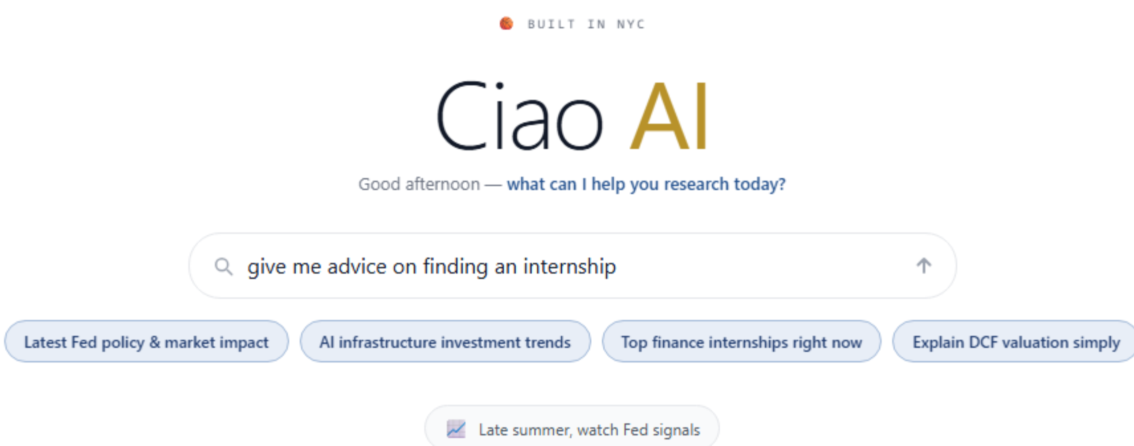

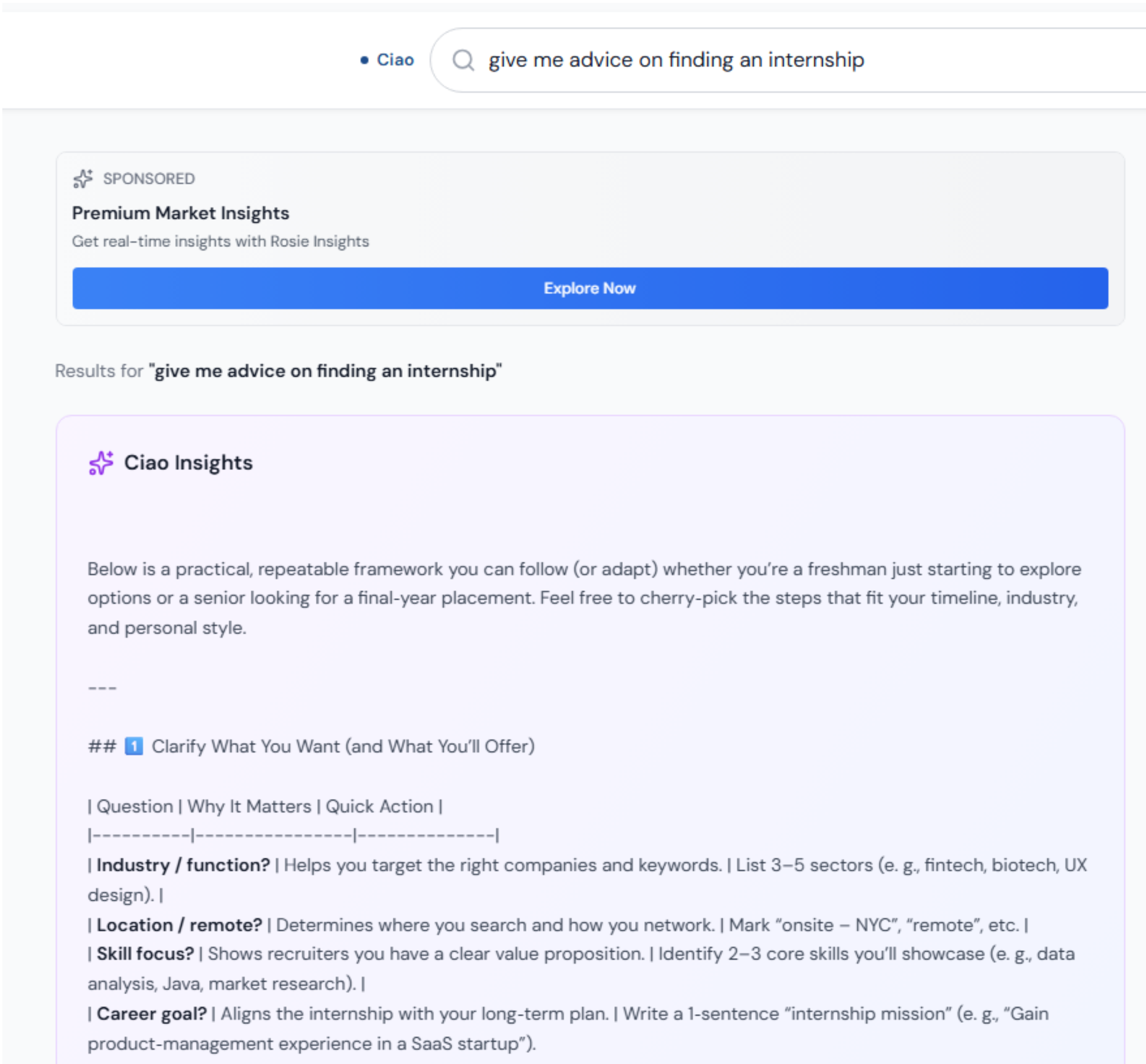
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Results for "give me advice on finding an internship"
Ciao Insights
Below is a practical, repeatable framework you can follow (or adapt) whether you're a freshman just starting to explore options or a senior looking for a final-year placement. Feel free to cherry-pick the steps that fit your timeline, industry, and personal style.
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## 1️⃣ Clarify What You Want (and What You'll Offer)
| Question | Why It Matters | Quick Action |
|----------|----------------|--------------|
| **Industry / function?** | Helps you target the right companies and keywords. | List 3–5 sectors (e. g., fintech, biotech, UX design). |
| **Location / remote?** | Determines where you search and how you network. | Mark "onsite – NYC", "remote", etc. |
| **Skill focus?** | Shows recruiters you have a clear value proposition. | Identify 2–3 core skills you'll showcase (e. g., data analysis, Java, market research). |
| **Career goal?** | Aligns the internship with your long-term plan. | Write a 1-sentence "internship mission" (e. g., "Gain product-management experience in a SaaS startup").


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