

MN BCA Forensic Science Services Internship Program - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is this a paid internship?

A: The MN BCA FSS Internship is unpaid, but you will learn valuable lessons about the field of forensic science from experienced forensic scientists and assist laboratory staff with project-oriented, non-evidentiary tasks. It also provides an opportunity for interns to explore career options, gain knowledge and skills that complement their academic studies, build resumes and network with professionals in the forensic science environment.

Q: Will I get a chance to go out on a crime scene?

A: No, interns are not allowed to attend crime scenes.

Q: Will I get to work on real evidence?

A: No, interns are not involved with any active / open cases or evidence.

Q: Will I get a chance to meet scientists in other sections?

A: Yes, you will be given a tour of the facility where you are interning. During this tour, you will meet scientists in other sections. Depending upon the demands of your project and the extent of your interests, you will be interacting with other scientists.

Q: I am from out of the state. Is housing provided?

A: No. Applicants must arrange for their own housing. Your internship advisor may be able to assist with questions about housing arrangements; however, the BCA does not provide for any meals or lodging.

Q: I have applied for the internship and not heard back from anyone yet. When can I expect to know if I am accepted?

A: We strive to notify all applicants approximately 6-7 weeks after the application deadline. This allows each section time to evaluate the applications, propose a research or validation project, and determine who will be overseeing the project.

Q: I applied last time around and did not get an internship. Can I and should I apply again?

A: Yes! Internships are offered depending upon the section caseload, research or validation proposals, and the applicant's fit with the section (degree/background/experience).

Q: I would love to work for the BCA after my internship ends. Is that a possibility?

A: Employment opportunities are based on current employees vacating positions or when the legislature approves new positions. When that happens, job postings are posted on the State of MN Careers website. You must apply for the position desired. Additionally, you must have obtained your undergraduate degree and meet the minimum qualifications of the position.

Q: If I cannot or am unable to apply for an internship, are there opportunities to shadow, mentor or conduct a Q&A session with a forensic scientist?

A: Unfortunately, the BCA lab does not allow for shadowing or mentoring. However, a Q&A session is possible, depending upon the availability of the scientists at the BCA.