

Responses to Questions Posed During the SRMS Career Advice Webinar – Opportunities in the Industry

Held November 14, 2024

Panelists: Gina Walejko (Google), Darcy Hille (Merck), Leah Christian (NORC), Jean Opsomer (Westat)

1. Dr. Christian thanks for your presentation. What are some of the recent projects in economics that NORC has been working on?

Christian: Here is a link for more information about our economics research: <https://www.norc.org/research/economics.html>. Some recent projects include the live crime tracker, the survey of consumer finances, and a study about entrepreneurship in the US.

2. Dr. Opsomer, thanks for your presentation. In data privacy, confidentiality, and record linkage, is there an interest in the exploration of various perturbative and non-perturbative methods for protecting privacy within datasets? Is the focus on a particular subset of methods such GADP and CGADP?

Opsomer: We do a range of different approaches, depending on the need of the project. We do several projects where we produce synthetic datasets, for instance.

3. Hi. So for summer internships, what is the usual timeline schedule for these applications?

Opsomer: At Westat, we post those in March-April for the next summer.

Christian: For NORC, we generally post in late Jan/Feb and interview in Feb/Mar.

4. Is there a requirement for having Internship experience or do the experiences as a graduate research assistant count?

Opsomer: It's not required but having an internship or a project that you did during graduate school are helpful to demonstrate your skills outside of the classroom.

5. Hi Gina. What scope does international students have to get in a summer internship in Google?

Walejko: Hi! All internships are routed through our internship site here:

<https://buildyourfuture.withgoogle.com/internships>.

Here are the internship links (open now for Summer 2025):

<https://www.google.com/about/careers/applications/jobs/results/135541108930159302-user-experience-research-intern-phd-summer-2025>

<https://www.google.com/about/careers/applications/jobs/results/143069327606588102-user-experience-research-intern-ms-summer-2025>

6. Do you accept first year MS Statistics (Applied) students for internships?

Christian: Yes, we often look at early graduate students for internships.

7. Hi. Can international graduates on OPT apply for job openings?

Christian: Yes

8. Hi, any advice for someone with a bachelor's degree in marketing looking to pivot into a data analyst or data science role?

Opsomer: Westat is indeed hiring undergraduates with degrees in statistics and data science.

9. What abilities does Google value most when screening candidates of UXR intern?

Walejko: I'm not quite sure what abilities are looked at during candidate screening. For internships in general, I would make sure your application clearly highlights any required or recommended attributes of UXRers. I do know that these internships are highly, highly competitive, possibly more competitive than some open career roles. Sorry that I can't give more advice.

10. Can a master's student apply for a UXR internship, or is it only open to PhD students?

Walejko: There are both UX Research applications (open now!) for MS and PhDs for the summer of 2025.