10 Essential Features for Successful Virtual Internships

As internships head remote it will be crucial to build support systems with buy-in from faculty, alumni, employers and providers. Which remote internship provider is right for your needs? Are you asking the right questions?

1. Experience:
How long has your remote internship provider been placing students in virtual Internships? If this is a new company? Do they have a proven track record? Can you see testimonials of success from both students and university partners?

2. Excellent Communication:
Does your remote internship company provide clear and frequent communication with you and with your students, with transparency for all aspects of placement, host company and intern progress?

3. Reliable and Reactive Host Companies:
Do the Host Companies offer project-based assignments with clear timelines, deliverables, and feedback? Is the host company supported in understanding the nuances of supervising a remote intern?

4. Online Preparation and Support Course & Assessment:
Is there an online, credit-bearing course to help prepare students and provide a space for reflective learning?

5. Career Coaching:
Is there live coaching from trained professionals to help students push their learning outcomes in terms of the NACE Career Competencies?

6. Invested Supervisors:
Do Host Companies have involved supervisors who mentor interns with regular feedback and advice? Has the program set out expectations that enforce a strong feedback loop and project planning?

7. Intercultural Exposure:
Is there an option for placement with global companies, so interns gain experience with international work?

8. Internship Community Support & Networking:
Is there a platform for interns to share questions and experiences with students undertaking similar online internships?

9. Wide Variety of Industries:
Can students from any major or department find a suitable internship to give them experience and knowledge in their chosen field?

10. Competitive Pricing:
Is the comparable price right in terms of high-quality placements, career coaching, and enhanced employability?

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