

COMPUTER SCIENCE IN MADRID: INTERNSHIPS

INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT

Digital technology is reshaping our society across all disciplines and areas, which means that the demand for skilled computer scientists continues to rise. Having a successful career in computer science means much more than mastering technical skills: you will need to be a critical thinker, problem solver, and team player in a fast-paced, globalized industry.

Computer science leaders and hiring managers say they look for these non-technical skills when choosing computer scientists for their teams:

- motivation and an interest in lifelong learning and continuing professional development
- communication skills, including intercultural communication and speaking multiple languages
- solving problems with a constructive attitude
- a strong work ethic with organizational and time management skills
- resilience in the face of setbacks and failure
- cognitive, strategic, and practical tools for design thinking
- humility; the ability to admit mistakes, ask for help, and accept feedback
- flexibility and adapting to new projects and scopes

Participating in an internship while studying abroad in Madrid is a unique opportunity to develop the most in-demand professional skills and experiences that set you apart from others in your field.

ACADEMIC SEMINAR

The seminar classes will deepen your understanding of Spanish workplace culture. An interdisciplinary approach will connect historical, political, and economic perspectives of the labor market. We will explore topics such as the role of women in the workforce, immigration dynamics, social welfare structures, and other rapidly changing paradigms in contemporary Spanish history.

The seminar is also a tool to process your internship experience. Students will discuss cross-cultural communication problems, examine coping strategies, and build up their resilience toolkit, as well as compare and contrast work culture in Spain and the USA. They will also be able to articulate their experience in future interviews by elaborating on their achievements and skills.

POSSIBLE TASKS AND ROLES

Potential placement possibilities may vary depending on the companies and institutions. Some areas which may be available are:

- Algorithms and Databases
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cyber Security
- Blockchain Application Development.

Computer Science students who participate in an internship will be placed in an interest area of their choosing with a focus on tasks and roles related to their expertise. In addition to the areas above, other tasks could include:

- digital content and social media management
- collecting data and conducting market research
- digitizing or automating internal processes
- analyzing problems, troubleshooting issues, proposing technical solutions
- sharing knowledge about AI and other tools

Students should be aware that other skills they possess, like English language proficiency and cultural competencies, are also highly valued at any Spanish company or organization.

INTERNSHIP INTEREST AREAS

Our list of available internship placements is updated continuously to better serve our participants and keep up with an ever-evolving market. Computer scientists work in every field and industry, so this is a chance to explore your interests and see how your specific skills could have an impact on an area you are passionate about. FOM will do its best to match each student to a role that fits their preferences, abilities, and goals.

Tourism & Hospitality

Tourism and hospitality is one of the largest sectors of Spain's economy, accounting for 8% of the GDP and 11% of total employment. Interns in this industry can expect to work for a travel agency, booking agency, walking tour, hostel, or related company.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you are passionate about travel and you enjoy interacting with people from all over the world.

Journalism & Media

Spain's world-renowned media landscape spans diverse political perspectives, including hard-hitting satire, award-winning investigative journalism, and spirited debate. Interns in this industry can expect to work for a newspaper, magazine, blog, radio/TV program, or related company.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you have excellent writing and communication skills and an appreciation for the importance of access to information.

Culture & Art

Madrid is a global cultural and artistic capital recognized for its world-famous museums, theatres, dance companies, and more. Interns in this industry can expect to work for a cultural center, theater, museum, gallery, or related company.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you have a special appreciation or talent for the visual and performing arts.

Business Administration & Management

Apply and sharpen your skills in marketing, communication, and project management with a business administration placement. Interns in this industry can expect to work in an office setting and learn more about the day-to-day management of a company.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you enjoy working in a corporate or office environment, are highly organized and motivated, and are comfortable speaking up and sharing your ideas.

Finance

Data-driven decision-making and good bookkeeping are critical skills for all professionals. Gain valuable experience in the financial department of a business, bank, or other financial institution.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you enjoy working in a corporate or office environment, are highly organized and detail-oriented, and have strong math skills.

Political & Community Organizations

As Spain's capital and seat of government, Madrid is bursting with organizations and initiatives dedicated to improving the lives of its citizens. Interns in this industry can expect to work for a non-profit organization, community group, local initiative, or related company.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you have a finger on the pulse of current events, and you enjoy working with a team toward a common goal.

Education

Spain's comprehensive education system includes public, private, and partially subsidized charter schools (*concertados*). In the last 15 years, Spain has drastically improved their English curriculum and student outcomes.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you like working with kids, you are already multilingual or have experience learning and teaching another language, you are empathetic, collaborative, and creative, and would be comfortable in a school environment.

Health

Life expectancy in Spain is almost two years higher than the EU average, in large part due to the excellent public health system. Intern in a health care center and learn more about why Spain scores higher than average in many key health indicators.

This opportunity is perfect for you if you are interested in biology, medicine, or health policy/administration; you are already multilingual or have experience learning and teaching another language; you are empathetic toward patients and staff and would be comfortable in a hospital, lab, or admin environment.

Other

If you don't see a particular area of interest on the list, you can suggest it on your application. Tell us a sector you are interested in and what skills you have that would make you successful in that area.