



# Top Ten Reasons a Graduate Student Should Apply to be an ECT Foundation Intern

By Cindy S. York

I decided to use my opportunity to write this column for TechTrends to encourage graduate students to apply for the ECT Foundation Internship. The following is a list of the top ten benefits the internship offers your career.

10. **Funding.** As all graduate students can attest, locating funding to attend conferences is tough. I search for every award or travel grant I can so I can attend AECT every year. The internship provided housing, registration, and a stipend (airfare and food) for the AECT convention.
9. **Publication.** I didn't realize when I won the internship that part of the award was the opportunity to write an article published in TechTrends. I decided to help other graduate students see the value in applying for the internship. My mantra for applying for awards is: Apply for every award you can, you might win. I'm still in awe that I got to be part of the 2008 intern class!
8. **Public Speaking.** I was nervous when told to sit and talk with people I didn't know at the Leadership Dinner. My thanks to those who made me feel comfortable at a dinner that could have been a very quiet one for me. Additionally, the internship provides the opportunity for you to chair a session and even present with your intern class at the Graduate Student Assembly. We spoke about strategies to successfully complete graduate school.
7. **Service Project.** As an intern class, you are able to give back to the ECT Foundation and AECT by completing a service project. The 2008 intern class is currently involved in



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two projects. The first will make more graduate students aware of the internship through a flyer sent to all universities. The second is a mentoring project that pairs faculty and graduate students with similar research or teaching interests.

6. **Shadowing.** In addition to breakfasts with leaders in the field, interns can choose an AECT leader to shadow during the convention. I chose not to follow just one person but instead went to as many board meetings and presentation sessions as I could.
5. **Behind the Scenes Pass.** The intern medal is an open door pass for the convention. You can attend any meeting you like, a valuable experience for observing how AECT happens. I never would have thought of attending a board meeting prior to the internship.
4. **Leadership Opportunities.** My intern class engaged in many leader-

ship opportunities. In addition, I was invited to join the AECT Leadership Development Committee, which deals with the Summer Leadership Institute. Without the internship, I wouldn't have known how to get involved in something like this.

3. **Mentoring.** The internship not only provides opportunities to find a mentor (if you don't already have one), but also provides experience and knowledge to return to your university and mentor junior graduate students.
2. **Networking.** I had the chance to meet many people and form relationships that will last a lifetime. As an intern I had the courage to walk up to people and introduce myself. Excitingly, I met the past, current, and future leaders of AECT and I am no longer just a face in the crowd.

And the number one reason you should apply to be an ECT Foundation intern...

1. **It could change your life. It changed mine.**

A special thank you to Sandie Waters for everything!

For more information about the ECT Foundation internship program, see <http://www.aect.org/ect/ect.asp> or contact Dr. Sandie Waters at [sandie.waters@gmail.com](mailto:sandie.waters@gmail.com).

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