Career Immersions

What is a Career Immersion?

Career Immersions, or “career field-trips” connect students with employers in the employer’s real-world of work setting! Students receive a “behind the scenes” look at organizations and the variety of careers that exist within them! Students and employers participate in unique and interactive networking activities to allow students to expand their industry knowledge and apply what they are learning in the classroom! For employers, career immersions are unique opportunities to build relationships with UIS students and recruit passively for internships, part-time and full-time jobs!

Sample Areas of Your Organization to Have Students Engage with:
Human Resources, Marketing/Advertising, Finance/Accounting, Sales, Information Technology, Communication/Public Relations, Development/Fundraising, Management/Business, and many more!

Suggested Agenda & Topic Items:
***These activities are suggested topics only. Please feel free to suggest additional topics and customize your immersion agenda. For assistance in developing your immersion, contact Alanna Cieslek at (217) 206-6508 or email at acies2@uis.edu

Beginning of Immersion:

- Start with overview of organization/industry, company culture, careers w/in org.
- Tour of organization with meet & greet of employees, career descriptions
- Meet & Greet with UIS Alumni Employees and/or new hires
- What you would be doing if you worked in this area or department

Middle of Immersion:

- Role play with employees, case studies, leadership styles, group work
- Lunch with students and employees
- Create sample work products with students: press releases, business plans, PR pitches
- Have students sit in on actual meetings
- Have students pair up with employees to conduct informational interviews
- Have employees mock interview students
- Have employees provide students with resume and/or cover letter advice

End of Immersion:

- What skills employer looks for when hiring, recruitment trends, tips
- Q&A session/discussion
- Open Networking, networking activities
- Discuss salary trends, negotiation, etc.
Which Career Immersion Model Are You Interested In?

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Option 1 (Approximately 2-3 hours spent at your organization):

- Choose about 2-4 activities

Option 2 (Approximately a half day or 4-5 hours spent at your organization):

- Choose about 3-6 activities

Option 3 (Approximately a full day or 8.5 hours spent at your organization):

- Choose about 5-8 activities
- Lunch must be built into the schedule using this option

How do Employers get Started and Schedule your Immersion?

Please contact Alanna Cieslek at the Career Development Center to schedule, develop, and customize your Career Immersion!

How do Students Apply?

Students need to log into their UIS CareerConnect account to apply for any UIS Career Immersion. For more information, the Career Immersion event should be listed under the tab ‘Events & Fast Pass’ where more details are listed such as when the deadline to apply is and what all is required to participate. You can also search for the Career Immersion under the ‘Jobs’ tab in CareerConnect.

Follow – Up:

- Alanna will meet with the students to debrief and discuss the immersion, connect students to any career center resources, and conduct/pass out an evaluation.
- Alanna will meet with the employers to debrief and discuss the career immersion, connect employers to any career center resources, and conduct/pass out an evaluation.