M1 internships

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The rules

- You spend 11 weeks doing research work
- **Not** in a French university, so:
  - Abroad, in a research lab
  - Possibly in a private company (in which case France is possible)
  - **Except** if you are an international student, in which case you can stay in France
- Starting on May 7 or after
  - *Warning:* many research labs are empty in August, some in July
  - Possible dates: from May 7 to July 20
- You find it yourself (with some help)
Organisational matters

1. Finding a tentative supervisor...
   ...hence, a topic

2. *convention de stage* (internship contract)

3. visa
   start looking at it *early on*
   be sure about the procedure

4. place to stay: get some help (pointers via the supervisor)?
Looking for an internship

- Decide of a topic, of places you would like to go
  - Surf online
  - Ask advice from researchers (at LIP, elsewhere)
- When?
  - Start thinking **now**
  - Have something to write on the *fiche de choix des écoles de recherche* (you can already write to me and Daniel)
  - the sooner, the better (in particular regarding visa, etc.)
Getting in contact

- I am a Master student at École Normale Supérieure de Lyon
- I am interested in BLI, I have looked at/read BLA (some papers, some research project), which I find particularly interesting
  Possibly: I followed/plan to follow the course BLO, where we studied this and that
- I have to do an 11 week internship, in a research group, starting at the end of May
- Possibly: your name was suggested to me by BLU
- I study at ENS Lyon, it is a very selective institution, oriented towards research. You can get in contact with Foo (daniel.hirschkoff@ens-lyon.fr, frederic.vivien@inria.fr, or someone else, at ENS or elsewhere in France) for more information
- Would it be possible for you to welcome me in your research group? if you are not around during the whole internship, would it be possible to share the tutoring?
- *(later on)* Financial support? access to facilities (student housing)?

**Curriculum Vitæ:** focus on academical aspects: courses you followed (provide description of course contents), internships you did. Hobbies are not the central thing (language proficiency?)
Agreeing on a topic for the internship

- Obtain a description of the internship (typically, 1-2 paragraphs with *bibliographic references*)
- Forward it to me
  You need my agreement (**mandatory**)
- Someone will be there all along the internship to tutor you
Internship in a private company

- We insist heavily on doing **research work**
  - The topic description should be precise enough
  - Sometimes we ask for an academic co-supervisor
    (for instance, a researcher which has interactions with the company)
- We can sign an NDA (non disclosure agreement)
  - the report will only be read by designated persons
  - only these persons can attend the student’s presentation
- Absolutely forbidden:
  “I cannot provide explanations about this and that”
- This may also happen in a 100% academic context
- Warning: may take some interactions with the department of legal affairs at ENS Lyon
Internship contract *(convention de stage)*

- Once all of the (research) information is available (where, on what, with whom, when); Gather all needed administrative information (who is qualified to sign, ...); Log in Elipse to ask for an internship contract.
- Try to detect early if difficulties may arise (legal aspects, notably between French laws and their foreign counterparts)
  - Talk to your tutor
  - Possibly show the forms to be filled to your tutor
- Depending on the location, this might be a cause of failure of the internship

**Places where difficulties have arisen in the recent past:** UK, US, Canada (contract, visa)

In other occasions, things went also very well in these countries!

If trying in one of these countries, start early, be proactive, and work in parallel on a backup plan
Some students get paid for their internship

- Some others are asked to pay student fees!
  (we prefer to avoid the latter; e.g., you are a “visiting researcher”)

Alternatives: facilities for your stay, for the meals, etc.

- Additionally, your supervisor may put you in contact with relevant persons (administrative staff, PhD students, etc.)

ENS Lyon can provide some help, notably for the trip: see
http://etudes.ens-lyon.fr/course/view.php?id=2023
Portail des études: Ma page / > Cours / > Informations Générales / > Partir à l’étranger

Application deadline: March 15
Evaluation

- Work as a researcher
  - Be creative, take initiatives, be curious
- Be able to explain and present your work
  - Report: approx. 20 pages
  - Presentation (beginning of September): approx. 20 minutes
- Have fun while doing science
During the internship

- Trips, moving around
  - Participating to meetings, conferences, etc.
  - Be sure to handle the administrative part of it

- Failures
  - It is difficult to find an internship / to plan a stay abroad
  - The supervisor is not supervising
  - You don’t like the topic you are working on

- Keep me informed as soon as possible
Warnings

- Taking decisions *might be difficult*
  If you’re uncertain in October, you’ll probably be so in February as well

- Handling all of this alone *might be difficult*
  No internship agreement: no internship
  *To some extent, you are also evaluated on these aspects*

- On the other hand, if you happen not to like too much your M1 internship, at least your tried (things are more tricky in M2)
In summary

The sooner, the better!

Important dates

- March 15: apply to ENS fundings for travel
- March 15: Internship contract data entered in Elipse
- April 1: Internship contract sent abroad
- May 7: Leaving for the internship