PIPS internship: data projects with a scientific publisher

The Company of Biologists is a not-for-profit publisher, producing five well regarded biomedical journals: Development, Journal of Cell Science, Journal of Experimental Biology, Disease Models & Mechanisms and Biology Open. As a UK charity, the company also provides grants and fellowships for the community and hosts scientific meetings.

Based in Cambridge (UK), we are currently offering internship opportunities – please contact recruitment@biologists.com. to express an interest. We ask for a letter explaining your interest (and a CV if you have one available).

The focus of our data internships will be gathering, analysing and reporting on publishing-related metrics, such as usage and citations, or measures that report on diversity and inclusion. Each project will have an assigned mentor - all projects should benefit the organisation, but we try to provide some flexibility for interns to shape their projects. Display of the results is important to us and you may be asked to work with Illustrators/Designers to produce posters for display at conference exhibitions or to produce infographics for our websites. We believe that 2—4 data analysis projects can easily be completed within a 3-month internship and we have other smaller projects that the student could move on to, time permitting.

We believe that interns learn more during an in-person internship, but remote internships still work well. During the internship, students will have the opportunity to attend our in-house presentations covering different aspects of publishing (e.g. open access, preprints, use of social media). The way we look at it… if you stay in science and want to publish your results, it might be useful to know how journals work… and if you don't stay in science, then publishing might be a suitable alternative career path.

Students sometimes ask whether there will be any opportunity for science writing – this is definitely not the focus for the internship, but we can offer the chance to write a piece for one of our community sites and receive expert feedback from one of our Community Managers.

What skills are we particularly looking for in an intern?

Confident handling of data.
Able to devise approaches to data analysis that address relevant questions.
Sufficient scientific knowledge to e.g. categorise articles by broad subject area.
Able to absorb information about the publishing arena in order to present data findings in an appropriate context.

The student should be genuinely interested in the project and the nature of the work, interact collaboratively with publishing contacts and be receptive to constructive feedback.

For remote internships, we will also ask candidates to consider good communication routes so that they can make the most of interactions with our staff, reach out to ask for help, or present new ideas and approaches.