The summer internship search can seem daunting – but it doesn’t have to be! Break down your internship search into two parts: first understand your approach and second, know the resources at your disposal.

Before you begin, take a step back and ask yourself a few questions. What do you want out of your summer? Is there a skill you want to develop? Do you want to further your knowledge of an industry? Explore a new field entirely? Is there a specific location you’d like to be in? Reflect on what is it you want to do and learn over the summer, and your approach will be more streamlined.

Next, update and edit your resume and cover letter! You may have more than one resume if you’re applying to internships in multiple industries. For examples of strong resumes and cover letters, see our website and the associated videos.

Your approach to finding and securing a summer internship should be twofold: via online searches and through networking.

The online search allows you to review an organization’s mission and values, see detailed internship descriptions, and submit your resume and cover letter to specific positions.

Networking allows you to connect directly with people to learn more about their experiences. You should be networking with your peers here on campus to learn more about their past internships, as well as alumni out in the world. Ask about their job and career path, the organization they work for, and any advice they may have for someone looking to gain experience in their field.

The Office of Career Strategy has numerous resources for both. Let’s quickly run through a few to get you started. To research opportunities and submit applications online, check out:

- Your Yale Career Link account, which includes independent internships, internships in the On Campus Recruiting program, as well as opportunities in our Yale-coordinated Internship Programs (for more information on these, please see our website)
- Online Career Resources, which include dozens of online sites we’ve curated for your job and internship search
- Specific company websites where you’re targeting internships
- iNet, an internship network among eleven universities including Yale

To network with your peers and recent alumni:

- Review the Peer Lists in Yale Career Link, located in the Document Library
- Use the Yale Career Network, a database of Yale alumni from all schools and years
- And find alumni and organizations on LinkedIn

Remember! All these resources are available on the Office of Career Strategy website.

This may sound like a lot of work but again, let’s break it down. If you spend some time each week dedicated to both an online search and to networking, you’ll be moving forward in securing a summer internship.

Let’s get to it!