

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Alec Nolan



Graduation Year: Fall 2018

Semester of Internship: Spring 2018

Major: Management-Accounting

Minor: N/A

Hobbies: Investing, mountain biking, running

Campus Activities: Accounting Club

Future Plans/Career Goals: Either tax, audit, or cost accounting

Hometown:

Irwin, PA

- **Internship (company/your title):**
BDO LLP
- **How did you find your internship?**
Networking with accounting professor
- **What were your duties?**
This spring semester I took part in a tax internship at BDO. Being that this was during tax season, I got a lot of experience in actually filing taxes for various entities. I was introduced to the process of filing returns for S-corps, C-corps, and individuals. Although towards the end, as the deadline for individuals was approaching, the bulk of the returns that I did were individuals.
- **How many hours per week were you at your internship site?**
I worked three days a week with about 25-30 hours per week.
- **What did you enjoy most about your internship?**
I enjoyed the actual hands on experience that you get when working for a public accounting firm. As soon as I got there I was trained on the computer software and within a week or so, returns started to hit my desk. I got to work with all the managers and even some of the partners, which taught me a lot.
- **What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?**
The most difficult aspect was the tax software and the ever-changing tax code. Trying to learn any new software is difficult, but when the tax code is also changing behind the scenes, it made it even more challenging.
- **How did your experience at UPG and in the Accounting department prepare you for your internship?**
The registration process at UPG was seamless. I had no problems using an internship for credit towards my major. This was because of the help I received from my accounting professors and Career Services. As for the actual work I was doing at the internship, my accounting classes and tax classes introduced me to some basic concepts that came in handy.
- **How has your internship prepared you for a career?**
Although I may not go into tax accounting, the people and systems that I worked with helped me tremendously in getting a feel for how a public firm operates.
- **What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?**
Get as many internships as possible. Whether it be during the summer or during a semester for credit. You learn a lot in the classroom, but actually applying it to the work world is a different experience. Internships will definitely open your eyes to what fields are actually like. Although, the internships that offer the best experience and best compensation hire far in advance, especially public accounting internships. I would suggest investigating as early as possible.