INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Mara McCutcheon

Graduation Semester & Year: Spring 2020
Semester & Year of Internship: Spring 2020
Major: Accounting
Minor: Healthcare Management
Hometown: White, PA

Hobbies:
Campus Activities: Accounting & Business Club
Future Plans/Career Goals: Work at BDO full time

- Internship (company/your title):
  BDO, LLP – Tax Intern

- How did you find your internship?
  I learned about this opportunity through Sharon Turchick, an accounting professor here at UPG.

- What were your duties?
  In general, I prepared tax returns, extensions, and estimates. For tax returns, I would also prepare workpapers, self-review the returns, and meet with those to review the return. For extensions, I would prepare them and calculate the appropriate amount to be paid with extension. For estimates, I would calculate a proper estimate of tax due for the next year and create corresponding vouchers. Other small tasks included addressing tax notices, client correspondence, and various research opportunities.

- How many hours per week were you at your internship site?
  I was required to work 25 hours a week.

- What did you enjoy most about your internship?
  I really enjoyed my internship. I think my favorite part was getting to work with new people and make new relationships. The atmosphere is great there.

- What was the most difficult aspect of the internship?
  The most difficult aspect of my internship was learning all the new software the company uses. The beginning of my internship had a lot of training in order to make sure we could use the software effectively.

- How did your experience at UPG and the Accounting Department prepare you for your internship?
  My experience at UPG has taught me a lot whether from classes or personal conversations with faculty. UPG has provided the foundation for my career and future.

- How has your internship prepared you for a career?
  My internship was a steppingstone into my career. Due to my performance at BDO they offered me a fulltime position once I graduate.

- What recommendations do you have for other students about doing an internship?
  An internship is a great way to expand your network and make yourself stand out to future employers. I suggest doing at least two different internships so you can work in different positions and see what you enjoy.

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