

Internship in Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) Exhibition Production at Smithsonian Exhibits

About Smithsonian Exhibits:

Smithsonian Exhibits (SIE) is an independent unit of the Smithsonian Institution based in Landover, Maryland. We provide exhibition planning, design, fabrication, and installation services to other Smithsonian units as well as affiliate museums and federal agencies.

Internship Overview:

This internship is located in SIE's fabrication shop. It requires a commitment of two to four eight-hour days over a period of ten to twelve weeks. The exact schedule is negotiable and will be determined at the time of selection. The internship will be under the direction of SIE's fabrication shop supervisor, James Emo.

Stipend and Academic Credits:

This internship includes a stipend of \$240 per week for time spent in SIE's fabrication shop. Academic credits for this internship are determined by the student's college or university.

Learning Objectives:

This internship is designed to provide on-the-job experience in various aspects of Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) exhibition production, including casework, cabinetmaking, bracket making, and other custom components as required.

This is an intensive, semester-long internship in the specialized world of museum exhibition fabrication. In addition to their application in the museum field, many of the skills developed during this internship can be applied to non-museum professions, including:

- Cabinetmaking and architectural millwork
- Sign making and graphic production
- Jewelry making
- Metal fabrication
- Plastic fabrication

The exhibition fabrication shop at Smithsonian Exhibits has advanced CNC mills, routers, and software tools. Candidates selected for this internship will work side-by-side with professionals on real projects and will be trained on equipment as required.



Details:

This internship will provide experience transforming design drawings, sketches, and 3D models into cut-ready parts layouts for CNC machinery. Interns will work with, and be mentored by, fabrication shop staff as they work to refine and improve this process. Interns will assist in developing and refining CAD/CAM production standards for the fabrication shop. At the end of this internship, the intern will have gained real-world skills and experience that will be useful for a career in fabrication or manufacturing.

Prerequisites and Eligibility:

To be eligible for this internship, candidates must have an understanding of the CAD/CAM process and an understanding of the principles and operation of CAM software and CNC machining. Software tools used at SIE include Autodesk Inventor, VCarve Pro, and Mastercam. Selection criteria will include grades, aptitude and ability, and a willingness to work in a real-world production environment. Previous experience in a shop environment is a plus but not required. SIE will make a final selection based on a review of the candidate's resume and an interview.

How to Apply:

To apply, please create an account on the [Smithsonian Online Academic Appointment System](#) (SOLAA). Once you have created an account, you will need to complete an application for the SIE CADD/CAM Internship. Follow the steps listed and be sure to upload any necessary supporting documents. If you need help, please contact the [Smithsonian Office of Fellowships and Internships](#) at 202-633-7070.

Application Deadlines:

Fall Semester (September – December): August 1

Spring Semester (January – May): November 15

