

## Employee Experience – A View from Interns

As part of your internship, we want to share your experience with others on our new website. Please take your time in answering the questions below.

### Question

How did this internship compare to your expectations?

### Answer

Usually, the word intern conjures images of coffee runs, data entry work, and making photocopies. Considering I have yet to see a physical piece of paper in the office, this experience has been completely different than what I was expecting. The internship experience at Blackline takes a much more holistic approach focused heavily on allowing individuals to see as many steps of a project as possible. This was particularly helpful for someone who as a student, had very minimal insight into the consulting industry. I also appreciated that instead of simply delegating disjointed tasks, there was an emphasis on explaining the reasoning behind the various processes and steps we were taking to provide results for clients. This was great because even after an initial explanation everyone on the team was ready and willing to carve out a part of their day to help us once we were working on a given task.

What was the most rewarding thing about working at Blackline?

The most rewarding aspect of working at Blackline was the idea that I got to play part, no matter how small, in tackling complex problems. There is something very gratifying about knowing you were able to help a municipality or organization with an issue that might have been impacting the residents in the area. Because of the collaborative approach taken by the team, we had the opportunity to offer input when we could, to listen in during brainstorming sessions and also to look at the final reports that detailed solutions. This was helpful in helping us feel like we were part of the process.

What was the most interesting thing you learned?

Apart from all the PowerPoint hacks I picked up, I think the most interesting thing I can take away from my time at Blackline is the way the senior staff thinks about the structure and clarity of reports. Before working with Blackline if you had asked me, I might say that design has absolutely no impact on the information being delivered but after seeing the thought that goes into the structure and phrasing in every slide, it's obvious that everything is curated with very specific intent. Up until now, I think we were taught simply to provide information as is and the reports we create are reflective of this. Blackline stressed the importance of asking the question "Why is this particular information pertinent?". That is a thought process I will be applying to any presentations or reports I produce going forward.