

GreatSchools, Inc. (Engineering) San Francisco, CA

1 Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size, etc.

About Us and Our Mission:

GreatSchools Inc., and its online media property, GreatSchools.net, is the nation's premier provider of K-12 school information. **Our mission is to improve K-12 education by inspiring parents to get involved.** Information and tools on GreatSchools.net help parents choose the best school for their children, support their children's education and improve schools in their communities. We are an independent, national nonprofit organization made possible by the generous support of foundations and corporations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Pisces Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Sylvan Learning Systems and more.

Our organization's dedicated and talented team of 35 (and growing) is headquartered in downtown San Francisco. Our online guide to K-12 schools will serve over 30 million users this year and is accessed at www.greatschools.net and through co-branded partnerships with a growing list of major media properties, including Yahoo!, AOL, MSN, Family.com, LATimes.com and SFGate.com.

GreatSchools.net offers comprehensive school profiles, powerful school search and compare tools, and a wide range of advice to help parents navigate the challenges of K-12 education. Unique features include:

- **Parent ratings and reviews**, that help parents get "beyond the numbers" to understand what parents think about the quality of teachers, leadership, extracurricular activities, etc.
- **Research and Compare Schools feature**, which allows parents to easily compare school performance, teacher qualifications and other data.
- **Help for Parents**, which provides trustworthy advice on topics ranging from communicating with teachers to understanding the special education system.
- **Free email newsletters**, including *Parent Advisor and My Nth Grader*, monthly tips to navigate the school year; grade-level guides for parents of K-5 children; *Middle School Matters* and *Countdown to College*, for parents of middle and high school students who are seeking expert advice focused on academics, behavior issues, financial planning and college preparation.
- **GreatSchools.net Ratings**, which provide insight into the meaning behind the numbers. For example, the GreatSchools Test Score Rating provides more insight into the quality of instruction at a school than raw test score numbers themselves. See top-rated schools within a geographic area and see how public schools rate according to test scores, attendance, teacher-student ratio and more.

2 Describe **in detail** the work or project an intern will do, **please be as specific as possible**.

Job description: This summer intern will work as part of the **GreatSchools Engineering Team** in the Technology Department. The Engineering Team is responsible for building and maintaining the Greatschools.net web application, along with various support tools. We are an agile development organization, doing Test-Driven Development in 2-week iterations.

Intern job description:

- Work closely with the Director of Technology on special projects. Examples of potential intern projects are:
 1. Mash-ups of school and real estate data with maps
 2. Implementing location-based search features with Lucene and MySQL
 3. Microtargeting customized email newsletters to small groups of users based on site activity
 4. Creating AJAX controls to improve various elements of our user interface
 5. Building internal tools using rapid application development frameworks
- Build unit tests for all code using Test-Driven Development
- Research, present, and advocate for new technologies and processes to the software engineering team

3 Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern

Skills required:

- Demonstrated advanced proficiency with Java, HTML, JavaScript, and CSS
- Very strong verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to work under deadlines and perform complex tasks efficiently and accurately
- Understanding of common design patterns such as Inversion of Control, Chain of Responsibility, and Model View Controller
- Familiarity with Spring, Hibernate, and MySQL is highly desirable

X Start and end dates for the internship are flexible.

The expected working schedule for this internship:

Begin **9:00 a.m.** End **5:30 p.m.**

Lunch break: **1 hour**