

From Queen's Park by Sylvia Jones MPP ? Ontario Public Service internships help people get started

Internships are a great way to gain experience, especially for current and recent university college graduates.

Many of those who have recently graduated from post-secondary education are finding it more challenging to obtain jobs in Ontario in their respective field of study. One of the often cited reasons for this is the fact that many employers require you to have some relevant work experience.

The Ontario Public Service has a wide array of opportunities for youth and young professionals.

The Ontario Public Service offers both co-op placements within the public service, summer jobs and internships in various ministries. If you are trying to find a summer job that relates to your studies, the Ontario Public Service hires more than 5,000 students for a whole host of jobs in various fields of study across the province.

One of the internships the Ontario Public Service offers is the opportunity to do your articling at the Ministry of the Attorney General. The Ministry hires around 100 articling students and provides them the opportunity to article and specialize in different fields of law.

Another great program the Ontario Public Service offers is the Ontario Internship Program. For those who want to obtain relevant experience in the public service, the Ontario Internship Program may be the right program for you. The internship begins in July 2015 and will last for one year. The Ontario Internship Program will provide the opportunity for two individuals to develop and hone their skills in the Ontario Public Service. This internship will offer the chance to work within a ministry, or government agency, in various fields of studies. These fields could be communications, human resources, labour relations, policy development, program service delivery, or business and financial planning.

To apply for the Ontario Internship Program, you must have earned a degree, diploma or postgraduate certificate within the last two years (May 2013 to June 2015). The deadline to apply for the program is 12 p.m. Jan. 21.

If you have a keen interest in Ontario politics, the Ontario Legislature Internship Program (OLIP) is a great opportunity to learn the workings of Ontario's provincial parliament. The 10-month internship will begin in mid-October 2015 at Queen's Park. Interns gain valuable experience and knowledge of how Ontario provincial politics works. Interns will have the chance to work for a government MPP and for an opposition MPP. Another great benefit of OLIP is the opportunity to travel to other Legislatures and see how the parliamentary system works in other jurisdictions. To apply for the program, you must have earned a degree from a Canadian University and have interest in learning Ontario politics. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28.

If you are interested in applying to an internship, summer job for the Ontario government, and or have further questions about the Ontario Public Service, please feel free to contact my office at 1-800-265-1603.

