

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

College Students' Internship Experiences

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76

INTERNS
PARTICIPATED



6

IN-DEPTH
INTERVIEWS



5

THEMES

THE INTERNSHIP JOURNEY

FIVE THEMES. A STRONGER TOMORROW.

1



ADAPTABILITY

Growth through
discomfort

2



COMMUNICATION

Professional skills

3



APPLICATION

Classroom to
workplace

4



DIRECTION

Career clarity

5



CONNECTION

Mentorship and
collaboration

WHY IT MATTERS



Internships bridge classroom learning and professional practice while shaping confidence, career readiness and professional identity.

METHOD



Reflective
journals



Field
observations



Interviews



Thematic
analysis

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



INTERNSHIPS TRANSFORMED UNCERTAINTY INTO ADAPTABILITY, INDEPENDENCE AND A STRONGER PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY.

This poster was designed by the authors, with ChatGPT assistance for visual layout and graphic refinement.