

Family History Internship

*Sponsored by the
FamilySearch Chief Genealogical Office*

Purpose

Provide a meaningful opportunity for the FamilySearch Chief Genealogical Office (CGO) and the Family History Bachelor's Program housed within the Department of History at Brigham Young University (BYU) to deliver advanced real world experiences to hand-picked Family History students under the direct mentorship of assigned members of the CGO, the Family History Library (FHL), and other key genealogists.

Results

FamilySearch generally, and the CGO specifically would actively mentor the professional development of the next generation of genealogists, supporting the outstanding education provided by the BYU Family History program. The interns would be further prepared to enter the public or private work environment with a greater understanding of the genealogical business including, the FHL, *Accreditation* or *Certification* and a larger network of genealogical contemporaries and influencers.

Examples of Intern's Opportunities

- **Family History Research Projects** based on specific needs including but not limited to United States, Canadian, British, Irish, Portuguese, African, African American, Jewish, Scandinavian, etc. for 25% of their time.
 - VIP Projects for noted Dignitaries, recent projects have included
 - United States Presidents
 - Prime Ministers
 - Governors in the United States
 - Shoshone Genealogy Reference Guide
 - Portuguese Genealogical How To Guide
- **Family History Library Reference and Cataloging Support** for 25% of their time
 - Identifying, recommending, and bib checking new materials for the Family History Library
 - Staffing the reference specialist desk with representatives from the FHL and the CGO
 - Understanding the functions of the world's renowned genealogical research library
 - Supporting the Discovery Center and introducing new and exciting ways to understand personal history
 - Researching and writing articles for the FamilySearch Wiki
 - Training with the Content Strategy Team to understand the content acquisition priorities
 - Attending feature roll-outs with Product Management and Engineering representatives discussing new or improved functionality of FamilySearch products and apps
- **Guided Support/Preparation for *Accreditation* or *Certification*** for 25% of their time identifying
 - Specific area for Accreditation, or
 - General Certification, under the mentorship of experienced professional genealogists

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- **Family History Business Planning** for 25% of their time supporting FamilySearch's efforts at RootsTech, NGS, FGS, IGHR, GRIP, SLIG, British Institute, and other global, national, and local leading industry initiatives by supporting the CGO in preparing and executing
 - Networking and business initiatives
 - VIP events
 - Classroom and keynote messaging
 - Logistics and planning
 - Attending key events as opportunities arise
 - Examples Include
 - Preparing for and supporting RootsTech SLC or London by
 - Planning and executing the VIP Dinner that includes General Authorities, genealogy and business executives, and key influencers in the genealogical community.
Operations include
 - Selecting and inviting attendees and managing attendance
 - Strategic placement and seating
 - Selecting appropriate gifts
 - Recognizing attendees at the dinner
 - Hosting breakfasts, luncheons, or dinners during the events to develop or further relationships with the guests
 - Coordinating with involved FamilySearch employees to ensure that key messages are formulated and properly communicated

This is an unpaid internship. Students will register for 2-3 credits of an academic internship course (either HIST 299R or HIST 496R) to participate in this internship. Depending on the number of credits received, students can expect to work between 84-126 hours during the course of the internship.

Currently looking for an intern for Fall 2019 semester as well as a second intern to start around 2nd block of Fall semester through end of RootsTech 2020 Conference (February 2020).

To apply: Send a resume and cover letter to hist_intern@byu.edu.

Interested students will also want to schedule a meeting with Mike Hall, Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer at FamilySearch. He is on BYU campus most Fridays between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. To schedule a meeting time, contact Mike Hall at HallMJ@familysearch.org.

For additional information about this internship, contact the History Internship Coordinator:

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