WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A brief look at some of CI’s most distinguished alumni.
CI is an accelerated learning provider. For students and recent graduates, CI’s programs provide the skills, experience and links to employers necessary to launch successful careers in today’s competitive and rapidly evolving employment landscape.

We boast a consistent and powerful track-record in positively and dramatically influencing the career trajectories of our students. Our alumni get hired three times more quickly, 2.5 versus 7.5 months, and earn 30 percent more, $45,000 versus $36,000, than their graduate peers straight out of college.

Our team is always extremely proud to see interns graduate from our programs and join globally reputable firms.

We caught up with a handful of our thousand-strong alumni.

Learn how CI’s approach to accelerated learning impacted alumni and the effect it has had on their futures.
Company: Goldman Sachs
Job title: Private Wealth Management Analyst
CI program: 2014, Investment
Education: Economics & Art History, University of Exeter, 2017

CI CLASS OF 2014

Marina Azarchenko
Banking & Financial Services

How did CI help to grow your skillset and focus your career direction?

“Marina
Everything about the program was helpful, from the internship experience to the social events. Having the internship experience really helped me in my career. Before the program I was another student with limited experience and having this internship on my CV definitely made me a more attractive prospective employee.

What advice would you give to future participants in our CI programs?

“Marina
Don’t just focus on your internship, explore all the opportunities that CI offers you and attend the career seminars - I met many established professionals who could answer your questions. Lastly, pay extra attention to networking sessions; networking is key! You must focus on relationship-building throughout your internship.
“Where to start? My internship taught me everything that you might assume to be common skills including day-to-day admin duties, professional communication, relationship-building and effective collaboration. There are skills that you can only learn in a hands-on environment through an internship and CI rounded off my experience with the resume workshops and career-oriented seminars.”

“Network! Relationships really do matter. The CI team facilitated my internship-hunt and ultimately recommended that I apply for the position at LinkedIn. I would also advise interested students and recent graduates to take all opportunities that present themselves.”

“I have worked at LinkedIn for over two years and I love it. I never would have thought that I would end up in sales at a leading social company but CI helped me to steer my career path.”

“Tell us a little about what you have going on at the moment.”

“What did you learn on the CI program?”

“What advice would you give to anyone considering our programs?”
Company: ING
Job title: Leveraged Finance Analyst
CI program: 2012, FOREX Trading
Education: Economics, London School of Economics, 2012

Maninder

The extra-curricular networking activities were great; the program acts as a mini graduate scheme. During the program I learned how to network and more generally, about the world of finance. At university you pick up theoretical knowledge, but in an internship it’s a completely different world. The program teaches you the skills you need for your career.

The reason I went to CI was to try different things. With the program I managed to gain international exposure and a great name on my CV. I can’t imagine how else I would have picked up this well-rounded experience without going through the program; it taught me about the options I have. Talking to the program mentors and getting advice from them was a great help. I would definitely advise interested students to do the program. Doing something different helps you to stand out to employers.
**CI CLASS OF 2014**

**TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING**

**BLAKE SMITH**

**Company:** Ford Motor Company  
**Job title:** Embedded Engineer, Technical Program Manager  
**CI program:** 2014, Data Insight Company  
**Education:** Computer Engineering, University of Michigan, 2016

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**CI**

**How did the CI help you to get where you are today?**

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**Blake**

CI does a good job of getting students job-ready. With the weekly career seminars, workshops and networking events, everyone gets a better feel of the professional world. Without CI I would not have landed my current position. My company kept noting the fact that I had done an international internship which gave me a huge advantage over the other candidates.

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**Did you have any idea of what you wanted to do before the program?**

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**Blake**

I’m not sure anyone knows exactly what they want to do, but CI helped me to narrow down my career outlook. The program shaped my role in the professional world and I had one of the best summers of my life.

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**What advice would you give to someone who is considering our programs?**

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**Blake**

An internship is crucial, particularly by junior or senior year. The effort you put in is what you get out. That applies to anything in life. I have a lot to thank CI for. They put in a lot of work for you – they have good drive and passion to help people out with their careers.
Company: BDO, USA
Job title: Risk & Controls Advisory, Experienced Associate
CI program: 2015, Financial Consulting Firm
Education: BA Political Science & Economics, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2015

How did the program impact your career plans?

Neal
I knew I wanted to do something related to my major, but I didn’t have a set career path. My internship was at a firm dedicated to foreign exchange consulting. I gained a lot of client facing exposure as well as valuable hands on experience. My current employer required related experience for the role that I am now in and it was so helpful to have the company I interned with as a reference as well as CI there to vouch for me.

Do you have any advice for those thinking about joining our programs?

It really is a worthwhile investment that will pay off in the long run. It’s hard to find such great internships on your own in those cities. This is an all-inclusive option. Keep an open mind, be open to suggestions and opportunities to learn – there are so many. You won’t always be given tasks that you like, but those are the ones that can show you what you don’t want to do and ultimately get you closer to your end goal. Take full advantage of the program and all it has to offer. The events and curriculum are worth your time and will benefit you long-term.

What was the best part about your summer?

Our weekend getaway was the best part of the program. It was nice to get out of NYC and bond with the other interns. I made friends that I still speak to today.
How did the program affect your career direction?

“Stephanie

I knew that I wanted to start a career in law but I was undecided between the barrister or solicitor route. By interning in Los Angeles I was able to gain exposure to both and make comparisons. I also learned that I want to work in a busy city – I really enjoy the city lifestyle.

Was the work experience aspect of the program beneficial?

“ Undertaking work experience is a much more practical way of learning and a great way to apply knowledge in a real-life setting. I found the chance to compare US and UK law really interesting: it opened my mind to different legal practices.

I’ve also noticed that hiring employers have put huge emphasis on work experience and having international experience was a massive advantage in securing my postgraduate employment.

What advice would you give to students and recent graduates considering our programs?

“Complete as much work experience as possible. It’s essential for interview content and sets you apart from your peers. Many of my friends are lost since graduation but work experience I gained through the program has given me a head-start.
Company: Invesco
Job title: Pricing Analyst
CI program: 2012, Asset Management Firm
Education: Business Administration and Economics, University of Miami, 2013

CI

How did your CI experience affect your career path?

Reggie

Commodities was always something in which I had great interest, but the Global Internship Program solidified my interest in working in the sector after graduation. Although I had undertaken internships in the past, it was great to get the opportunity to intern in the commodities department and the network that I was able to build was extremely helpful in my job search after college. Interviewers were always interested to hear about my experience abroad, which never failed to stand out on my CV. I gained valuable workplace experience that better prepared me for my current role.

What advice would you give students looking to pursue their chosen career path?

Pursue every opportunity, don’t let anything stand in the way of the career that you want and never give up. These were important things that I kept in mind during my job hunt and are key in any industry these days.

Looking back, are you happy with your decision to do the program?

Absolutely. I was able to sharpen both my hard and soft skillset in the workplace and had so much fun along the way. My program in London took place during the summer of 2012, during the Summer Olympics and I will never forget attending the Men’s soccer gold medal match. I made lifelong friends and professional connections.
TAHA TIPPU

Company: Barclays
Job title: Assistant Vice President, Debt Finance
CI program: 2011, M&A Firm
Education: MSc Finance, Imperial College London, 2014

How did the program influence your career trajectory?

"Taha
I didn’t have a firm idea of what direction I wanted to take my career. I accepted an M&A internship through CI following my first year of university. This led to a second M&A internship between my second and third years and then eventually joining Barclays on a graduate scheme. CI was the stepping stone to get to where I am. I learned skills that I didn’t even know I needed. I was placed in a professional working environment that gave me exposure to the real world.

What advice would you give to students considering our programs?

"Gather professional work experience as early as possible. It’s the best way to build the skills necessary to succeed after university. Take advantage of the events as they also go a long way to preparing you for the real world, and be sure to keep in touch with your peers on the program. The internship program is a great opportunity to build out your network."
SAMUEL GRANTHAM

**Company:** Aberdeen Asset Management

**Job title:** Portfolio Analyst

**CI program:** 2012, FOREX Trading

**Education:** Chemical Engineering, University of Nottingham, 2013

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**CI CLASS OF 2012**

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**CI**

Was your career goal always to work in finance?

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**Samuel**

My career interests changed during my internship. My degree was in chemical engineering, so I didn’t know anything about finance. The internship was a taster for me and I was offered a full-time position following the program. I enjoyed my internship so much, that I accepted the offer!

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**CI**

Did you feel more prepared for your current job after the internship?

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I didn’t have access to real-world examples at university the way I did in my internship. I analyze markets and real-life events directly affect the portfolio I manage. My experience was key for me to secure the job offer. A degree can only take you so far: employers are more interested in practical work experience. You can’t put a price on teamwork skills and making progress in the workplace.

On top of all the skills I learned, I would not have landed my current position without the program and CI.

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**CI**

What advice would you give to recent graduates looking to get where you are?

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Networking is key and you should be willing to try something different. I kept my options open instead of going down my anticipated career route of engineering. I find most people now are focused entirely on the job title, which might change 10-15 times throughout your life. As long as you’re learning and getting feedback from people willing to teach you, that’s more important.

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**Company:** Amazon  
**Job title:** Senior Product and Project Manager  
**CI program:** 2014, Insurance  
**Education:** MBA, HEC Paris, 2015

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**CI**

**How did participating in the program benefit your career?**

**Avik**

The program definitely changed my feel for the technology industry. Graduate employers were able to recognize the value of my internship experience and with CI I got experience I needed in my sector.

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**Do you have any advice for future participants on the program?**

**Avik**

I would recommend that students and recent graduates find an internship and don’t hesitate to take on responsibility. I got to meet people, who I am still in touch with, enjoyed the socials, and gained exposure to real-world experience.
Company: Yorkshire Building Society Group
Job title: Market Risk Oversight Manager
CI program: 2014, Investment & Banking Firm
Education: LLM, University of Bristol, 2012

Charles

Before I joined the program, I knew nothing about what I wanted to do. My internship and the career-focused seminars that make up the Global Internship Program gave me insight into the real world and what day-to-day life in the finance industry looks like. I gained first-hand experience, which is the best way to learn and become familiar with the career field that interests you. Interviewers recognized the value of my work experience and my internship was an essential component of my career progression.

I really enjoyed the Executive Panel. At the time, I couldn’t decide between exploring a career in law or finance. Through the Executive Panel that CI hosted, I had direct access to top level professionals in both fields who were able to give me insight about life in each sector. This really helped me to narrow my options and choose the career path and lifestyle that I was looking for.

An internship is a brilliant opportunity to figure out what you do and don’t like. Build your industry knowledge so you can choose an area to focus on; CI opened the doors that enabled me to do just that. The program helped me to refine my knowledge and focus my job search. Don’t overlook the social element; I am still connected with many of my fellow participants today.

CI

How did the program influence your career trajectory?

What was the most memorable part of the program?

What advice would you give to students considering our programs?
**Company:** Bloomberg  
**Job title:** Speed Desk Reporter  
**CI program:** 2014, Media Agency  
**Education:** American Studies, Ghent University, 2014

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**Wout Vergauwen**

**CI CLASS OF 2014**

**CI**  
What impact has the program has on your career?

The program widened my international outlook and gave me the push to intern abroad. Advice from my employers, contacts with fellow interns and the seminars organized by CI have no doubt also contributed to ensuring I am actively engaged in developing my career, and pursuing the path I’ve set for myself.

**Networking.** It is probably the biggest gap in any academic curriculum and in my opinion, the greatest asset of the program. The opportunity to learn and develop networking skills have certainly helped me along the way.

I also really enjoyed the weekend away in the Lake District. It was only a small group, but I formed some great friendships over the weekend that set me in good stead for the remainder of the program. The highlight was no doubt the ghyll scrambling!

**Any advice you’d give to future participants on our programs?**

It’s great to have an idea where you want your career to head (before your internship), but it’s better if it isn’t set in stone. Approaching challenges and new opportunities with an open mind will open your eyes to interests and professional perspectives you might not have noticed in the first place.
Alex

I felt like I already had a solid skillset and was confident in my own abilities, but was not completely sure what I wanted to do with my degree upon graduation. My internship gave me a snapshot of what it would be like to work in marketing and taught me new skills while sharpening those that I already possessed. Not only that, but I realized the importance of creating a network within the marketing and public relations industry, and was able to do that through this program.

I really enjoyed spending time with and getting to know the CI team. The entire team was very helpful throughout the program and I always enjoyed the input that they were able to give. It was wonderful to be able to get added exposure and develop myself further as a professional because that is vital for any young person. In general, it was a very positive and rewarding experience.

It is very important to keep a level head and never let your emotions get the best of you. There will certainly be times that are difficult as you look to break through in your chosen career field, but you must remain calm and remember that it is all part of the process. Build strong, lasting relationships with everyone that you meet because you never know when these connections will be of help to you.
CI CLASS OF 2012

CURTLY FELIX

Company: BlackRock
Job title: iShares EMEA Sales Management
CI program: 2012, Financial Services Corporation
Education: Economics and Statistics, University College London, 2012

CI

What impact has your internship had on your career path?

“ Curtly

Following my internship, I have held positions at Barclays and now, Black Rock – two of the largest financial institutions in the world. I’m not sure that I would have had that career path without gaining experience through CI.

Do you have any advice for students and graduates looking to kick-start a career?

“ Get experience early and use it as leverage to secure the roles you want. My CI program was an excellent decision and an even better investment in my future.
CONSULTING & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

TIMOTHY CHOY

Company: Deloitte
Job title: Senior Forensic Technology Associate
CI program: 2014, Financial Services
Education: Chemical Engineering, University of Manchester, 2015

CI CLASS OF 2014

"Timothy

Before I joined the program, I had no idea what I really wanted to get into. The program allowed me to understand the industry and narrow my career direction. I gained an advantage over my peers in the job market and I credit my place on Deloitte’s graduate scheme to CI. I was able to work across a few different sectors and get an idea of what was out there.

The program allowed me focus my career goals and showed me the differences between small and large companies. There is no substitute for hands-on experience.

Which aspects of the program did you find most beneficial?

"The business psychology seminars and CV workshop were all excellent and rounded off my overall experience. Aside from helping me to get where I am now with Deloitte, the program helped me develop an efficient workplace mentality. I was able to make mistakes, learn from them and learn how to conduct myself. Without the program I wouldn’t have had the correct attitude entering the jobs market. It showed me what I can and can’t do and gave me a good idea of my capabilities."
CI CLASS OF 2015

ANDREW SCHRETER

Company: Rockefeller & Co.
Job title: Portfolio Analyst
CI program: 2015, Hedge Fund
Education: BSc Financial Economic & Applied Mathematics, Emory University, 2015

“Andrew

I was always focused on a role in Investment Banking. I had originally wanted a sell-side role, but I chose a buy-side internship. This completely changed my career path and led me to where I am today. I learned the ins-and-outs of finance through my internship. At school, they provide you with a theory-based understanding of industries. My internship allowed me to put that theory into practice. I came away with skills and experience that they just don’t teach you at school.

Do you have any advice to students and graduates in a similar position to you?

“Be goal-oriented. Develop a path and an idea of where you want your career to go. Make sure that you do everything you can now to be in a position that will help you market yourself down the line.

What was the most memorable part of the program?

“"It wasn’t all about the internship. I still keep in touch with the people from my program. It’s nice to have a group of friends who are also young professionals and share my interests and goals.
ETIENNE FAUCHER

**Company:** Printemps  
**Job title:** Sales Service Representative  
**CI program:** 2014, Sales and Marketing  
**Education:** Business Administration, Centre d’Etudes Franco-American de Management, 2017

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**CI**

Did your experience on a CI program help you to realize your career direction?

**Etienne**

Absolutely. I really didn’t have much of an idea of what I wanted to do before my internship, but I was able to realize my passion for marketing and gain experience in the fashion industry. Marketing is a great way to apply my university degree and I was able to grow significantly from spending time in a professional environment outside of the classroom.

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Do you feel better prepared to begin your career after participating in a CI program?

**Etienne**

Yes, I was able to greatly improve my communication skills, and spent time in a new environment in a different country. There is a certain level of focus and attention to detail that you can only learn from the workplace, especially if you want to work in this industry. Along the way, I was also able to sharpen my professional skills and learn how to write a solid CV.

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Has your experience had a lasting effect on you as a professional?

**Etienne**

My internship experience on the Program has caught the eye of many employers and helped me to land other opportunities. I am better prepared for my career as a result of my diverse and noteworthy internship. It is always beneficial to pick up international experience in any industry, and I know that I am a better interviewee thanks to the workshops and events during the program. The professional and personal connections that I was able to make during the program have stuck with me and I plan on spending time with these friends when I return to London.
Company: Deloitte
Job title: Senior Audit Associate
CI program: 2014, Investment & Banking Firm
Education: BSc Economics & Management
Royal Holloway University of London, 2016

Waleed

How did the program influence your future career decisions?

The program is interesting because it gives you an idea of what you do or don’t want to do in the future. I always thought I wanted to go into investment banking. However, my career path changed as a result of my internship. I gained exposure to the lifestyle that I would be expected to have and I realized that it wasn’t the right fit for me. I decided to switch gears and pursue accounting instead, and I’m very satisfied with my decision. If I hadn’t have done the program, I would have wasted the beginning of my career in a position that wasn’t right for me.

What advice would you give to students and recent graduates considering our programs?

My advice is to take part in the program. It’s an excellent platform to kick-start your career and ensure a good name is on your CV from the off. But you can’t stop there, get as much experience under your belt as you can in order to make yourself stand out. It’s important to work hard for things to fall into place.

Has the program had a lasting impact?

I’m still in touch with the interns who were at the same host company as me. There are also professional contacts at the company I interned with who remain mentors to me.
What aspects of the Program did you find to be the most helpful in your career?

Hollie

That’s an easy one - how to interact with people higher up in the company. Hiring employers have recognized the value of my internship experience and always asked about my time on the program in interviews. The internship gave me confidence for future jobs which was in large part due to the help of my mentor.

What was the most memorable part of the program?

Hollie

Meeting people that lived in the same building was fantastic. I am still in touch with some of these friends. I already knew what I wanted to do career-wise before the program so my internship was more about having the experience. I learned that it is key for students to start doing internships pre-graduation and to always remember that everyone you meet is a potential employer.
How has the program helped you in the professional world?

Lucas
The Program helped me to become comfortable working with clients in a professional setting. I became acquainted with professional etiquette and improved my work-place efficiency. Aside from that, my interviewing process was seamless due to the fact that most of the questions asked at my interview at Charles Schwab were answered with things I experienced via the program.

Aside from the internship, what other aspects of the program did you enjoy?

I really enjoyed some of the social networking events that we were a part of. My senior mentor also took me to some networking events on his own time that were a great learning experience.

Looking back, are you glad that you did the program?

100%, it was worth every penny. It was one of the best summers of my life. Being from a small town in Connecticut and having the opportunity to spend a summer in a city like Los Angeles was something I would have never dreamed of. The experience was amazing both professionally and socially.
Company: Royal Bank of Scotland
Job title: Investment & Restructuring Portfolio Graduate Analyst
CI program: 2015, Financial Intelligence Firm
Education: BA History, The University of Nottingham, 2014

**CI CLASS OF 2015**

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**Sandeep**

The program made networking a lot easier for me. I wasn’t scared to have technical conversations because I had developed an understanding of the types of roles I was interested in. During my internship, I learned how to read financial statements and gain specialized knowledge and skills that I wouldn’t have had otherwise. Having this experience made it easier to market myself. I was interviewing for a competitive program, the fact that I had a relevant internship made it easier to secure my position.

**Sandeep**

Diversify your experiences, don’t limit yourself and be open to different opportunities. Always think about your long term goal – don’t lose sight of the big picture.

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**CI**

How do you feel the program helped you mature?

Do you have any advice to the students and recent graduates considering a CI program?

Away from the internship, how else did the program benefit your future career?

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**CI**

The Career Accelerator Series was filled with extremely worthwhile seminars that provided useful information and networking opportunities that I wouldn’t have had access to otherwise.
How did your internship experience shape your career goals?

Veronika

While my internship showed me that I would rather be doing something on the more creative side, I learned a lot about the industry. Graduate employers have since recognized the value of my experience and after graduating, when everyone else was worried about finding a job, I knew that I had prepared myself by interning. University doesn’t prepare you for working-life or provide office familiarity, but the program gave me the opportunity to be in a big city and get real-world experience.

What was the most memorable part of the program?

Veronika

The trip to the Lake District was really fun! I made some really good friends and it was nice to get away and do something nature-oriented away from the city. I am still in touch with people I did the program with.
ENTERTAINMENT, MEDIA & JOURNALISM

KATIE WILMSHURST

Company: Ashfield, UDG Healthcare
Job title: Editorial Assistant
CI program: 2014, Editorial
Education: English Literature and History, Lancaster University, 2015

CI

Do you feel your program experience was of interest to graduate employers?

Katie

Yes, at every interview or meeting since I completed the program it has been the main item interviewers ask about. Interviews would focus on my experience and I was able to answer tricky questions as a result.

Did the program gave you an advantage over your peers?

I had a job offer in February, before anyone else, and started working one week after my final exam; two months before I actually graduated. I think that says a lot! I also feel like I’ve been able to travel like I would have in a gap year, while getting experience and ascending the career ladder.

Looking back, has the program helped you shape your career?

It really helped me to decide what I did and didn’t like about different roles in the industry. I believe that you can really only know if you actually want to do the job you dream about once you’ve lived it for a few months.

Do you have any advice for students to help them get where you are today?

Don’t wait until your final year to start gaining experience! Even if you don’t know exactly what you want to do, getting work experience and volunteering for opportunities that interest you will not only add to your CV but also narrow down what you want to do when you graduate.
EXPLORE YOUR FUTURE IN JUST EIGHT WEEKS WITH CI.

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