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- Nathan Justice (Biology, Environmental Studies, 2016)
- Research Assistant
- Full-time, 30 - 40 hours per week
- Unpaid but receiving Career Center Internship Grant

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
My duties include implementing a variety of experiments and protocols, including DNA and protein gel electrophoresis, polymerase chain reactions, DNA mini-preps, bacteria culturing and growths, bacteria transformations, protein inductions, and protein purifications.

**How did you find your internship?**
I found my internship by researching labs at Montana State University. I secured the internship by contacting the PI via email and asking if she had an open position in her research group.

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
I enjoy the applied science that accompanies my particular internship. It's one thing to learn about research methods from lecture and a textbook, and it's a whole different experience performing these techniques in the pursuit of scientific discovery.

**What do you find challenging?**
The most challenging aspect of my internship is working in fields of biology that I haven't studied. A vast majority of my work was with molecular biology and genetics, subjects I never took a course in and was relatively unfamiliar with.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
In my opinion, when participating in a molecular biochemistry research internship, the most important thing an individual can do is familiarize oneself with previous related research. It's best to join the lab group knowing as much as you can about the subject beforehand. The second most important thing is to ask a lot of questions. I had to push aside the fear of looking stupid and ask about the finer details of the chemistry and biology involved.

**About the Organization**
Montana State University  
Bozeman, Montana

The academic programs and scientific research interests in our department cover a wide range of topics, with special emphasis on cell biology, neurobiology, developmental biology, physiology, anatomy, biophysics and neuroinformatics. Together, faculty and students in our department study biological processes that span the continuum from single cells to the entire human body.