

Rural/Indigenous Startup Internship

Accelerate Montana

Accelerate Montana (AM), the University of Montana's economic development team, is excited to announce an internship open to all majors / fields of study.

This internship can be completed over the **Spring Semester**.

Accelerate Montana connects knowledgeable, motivated UM student interns to rural or Indigenous entrepreneurs in the early-to-middle stages of developing a business. Interns work directly with startup owners (virtually until further notice), contributing to ongoing business projects (customer development, market research, video and social media marketing, etc.).

Current projects needing interns include but are not limited to: innovative AgTech disruptor startup, equine therapy provider, financial risk analysis startup.

The Accelerate Montana Rural Innovation Initiative (AMRII) is an Accelerate Montana project designed to help rural and Indigenous entrepreneurs in Montana build and scale their enterprises. AMRII has developed partnerships with several tribal nations to kick-start entrepreneurship, the Montana library system to develop public idea launchpads / resource centers, and others.

In addition to gaining startup business experience, interns will have an opportunity to work out of the Innovation Factory: an exciting and intellectually stimulating co-working space that supports many of Montana's budding entrepreneurs. Accelerate Montana enjoys an entrepreneurial, collaborative culture designed for individual project ownership.

Project support intern duties:

- Regularly meet with clients to brainstorm ideas, deliver project updates, and solve business problems
- Take ownership of projects and follow up with clients as needed to ensure progress and modify approaches as needed
- Connect clients with community business resources
- Attend AM meetings for ongoing skills development, and to discuss client issues, problems, and progress
- Assist as needed with sourcing new clients for AM (involves in-network outreach and additional network-building)
- Assist as needed with additional AM projects, communications, and events

Value of the opportunity:

- Obtain real-world, hands-on experience in business development specific to your career interests
- Develop a client communication and client development skillset that is essential to starting businesses and leading organizations

- Gain a deep understanding of business tools and strategies applicable to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations
- Connect with passionate, innovative, and creative entrepreneurs
- Grow your professional network and open post-graduate career opportunities (e.g., job offers, further education)

Minimum qualifications:

- Interest in innovation and small business
- Strong work ethic, independence, and time management capabilities
- Sufficient flexibility to be available based on client schedules
- Ability to listen to unique problems and design solutions from scratch
- Excellent communication skills (written and in-person)
- Ability to think on your feet and ask relevant questions to clients
- Willingness to be part of a team and support other AM initiatives and activities

This internship is scalable between 1-3 internship credit hours for students in the University of Montana College of Business. Interns will also receive a stipend (subject to availability, and currently available). If you belong to a different UM school, please don't hesitate to contact us—we are continuing to expand credit eligibility and will work with your school to ensure you are compensated for your time.

We hire on a rolling basis, so the sooner you get your application in, the sooner we can interview you, and the more likely you are to get hired. **Please don't assume we've already filled the position, as we always have multiple new internship opportunities in development.**