

To Whom It May Concern:

In the summer of 2012, I worked as an intern with College Works Painting. In short, it was the most comprehensive learning experience I've participated in to date, despite the fact I am in the first year of owning a separate business I started with a friend, studied abroad a full semester in Australia, and am a student at Carlson. I cannot put into words the roller coaster ride it is to be an intern, but all of the ups and downs come together at the end to leave the intern with a feeling of satisfaction they will not be able to find anywhere else.

There will be times when it seems as if things couldn't be worse, and times when it feels as if you have the easiest job in the world and nothing can go wrong. At the end of the summer though, it's not about the ups or the downs, it's about what you're left with. All the mixed feelings of hesitation, doubt, confidence and happiness an intern will be put through will give them an experience they won't find in ANY other position.

You don't sign up for this internship to get really good at painting – although it's not a sexy internship in a tall building downtown, there is a 99% are doing more with this internship than what any of your peers will be doing next summer. Aside from the fact there is also a 99% chance you will make more money than any of your peers will with this internship, you are given more hands on experience in business than you will be able to find anywhere else. Marketing, Sales, Management, Customer Service, Organization, Accounting – the list goes on of skills and topics that are broadly covered over the course of an intern's journey.

You may read this and still not think it's enough to take a leap of faith – a dive into the unknown of what could be. However, if you are even being considered for this position that must mean it's in you. It's possible for you to be writing this same letter in a little less than a year. All that's required from you is your commitment. It could be more than what you're expecting – or willing to give. But you have my word, if you give it, and you follow through, you will have no regrets at the end of the summer. You will think back to all of the hiccups with a smile on your face knowing you have done what very few people your age have done, and the confidence to know you can conquer what is waiting for you in the future.

Mike Fasbender
University of Minnesota
Carlson School of Management