UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences **Department of Linguistics** 

# Finding Internships in Industry

Mingyue Huo & Huiying Cai Linguistics Seminar, 2025/3/10



### **Table of Contents**

- 1 Our Experiences
- 2 Where to Find Opportunities?
- **3** Prepare Your CV and Interview
- 4 After the Offer
- 5 Q&A

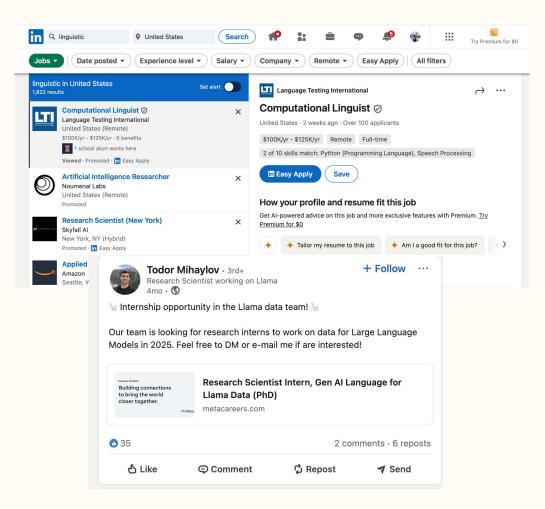
### **Our Experiences as Interns**

Speech and language data collection Data annotation using linguistic knowledge Model evaluation Independent research projects

Data cleaning

Text analysis

Statistical analysis



How to Find Opportunities

LinkedIn

HandShake

Twitter (X)

Linguist List

Conferences

Network

Email

## **Prepare your CV**

- Similar to an academic CV, but ...
- Let's spot the differences!

```
(It's generated by ChatGPT, so it's 90% fake...)
```

#### CV Example – A

#### **MINGYUE HUO**

Email: mingyue.huo@example.com | Website: www.mingyuehuo.com | LinkedIn: xxx

#### Research Interests

Computational Phonetics & Phonology; Speech Processing & Prosody

Natural Language Processing for Low-Resource Languages

#### Education

Ph.D. in Linguistics, UIUC (2022 - Present)

M.A. in Linguistics, UIUC (2018 - 2022)

Thesis: "Automatic Detection of Suprasegmental Features in Mandarin"

#### **Publications & Conference Presentations**

Huo, M., & Cai, H. (2023). "Prosodic Features in Neural Speech Synthesis." Proceedings of the International Conference on Speech Science.

Huo, M. (2022). "Acoustic Cues in Mandarin Tone Recognition." Journal of Phonetics.

Invited talk at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 2023.

#### **Teaching Experience**

Teaching Assistant, UIUC (2021 - Present)

Taught Introduction to Linguistics and Phonetics & Phonology.

Designed and graded assignments, held office hours, and mentored undergraduate students.

#### **Research Experience**

Graduate Research Assistant, UIUC Phonetics Lab (2021 - Present)

Conducted experiments on speech prosody and synthesized speech evaluation.

Managed a team of research assistants for data annotation and acoustic analysis.

Research Intern, ABC NLP Lab (Summer 2022)

Developed linguistic models for prosody prediction in TTS systems.

Analyzed large-scale speech corpora for prosodic variation.

#### Service & Outreach

Reviewer for *Journal of Speech Sciences*. Co-organizer, ILLS16

#### **Technical Skills**

Praat, R, Python (basic), LaTeX

#### MINGYUE HUO

Email: mingyue.huo@example.com | Website: www.mingyuehuo.com | LinkedIn: xxx

Internship Availability: Summer 2025 (May - August) | Open to remote and hybrid roles

Skills & Tools

- Programming: Python, R, SQL
- · Machine Learning: PyTorch, scikit-learn, TensorFlow
- Speech & NLP: ASR, TTS, Prosody Modeling, Sentiment Analysis
- Data Analysis: Pandas, NumPy, Jupyter, Visualization (Matplotlib, Seaborn)

#### Education

Ph.D. in Linguistics, UIUC (Expected 2027)

Specialization: Speech Processing & Computational Phonetics

M.A. in Linguistics, UIUC (2020 - 2022)

#### Working Experience

Research Intern, ABC NLP Lab (Summer 2022)

- Developed and optimized prosodic models for a neural TTS system, improving naturalness scores by 12%.
- Designed and implemented data augmentation techniques to enhance speech synthesis in low-resource languages.
- Collaborated with engineers to integrate prosodic features into real-time speech applications.

Phonetics Lab Assistant, UIUC Phonetics Lab (2021 - Present)

- Conducted experiments on speech prosody and synthesized speech evaluation.
- Managed a team of research assistants for data annotation and acoustic analysis.

#### **Publications & Conference Presentations**

Huo, M., & Cai, H. (2023). "Prosodic Features in Neural Speech Synthesis." Proceedings of the International Conference on Speech Science.

Huo, M. (2022). "Acoustic Cues in Mandarin Tone Recognition." Journal of Phonetics.

Invited talk at the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 2023.

#### Certifications & Workshops

- Deep Learning Specialization (Coursera, 2023)
- Speech & Audio Processing Workshop (ICASSP, 2022)

## **Prepare your CV**

- Similar to an academic CV, but ...
- Let's spot differences!

- Explicitly describe your skills, and availability
- Focus on your projects rather than research or teaching
- Language is industry-friendly (impact-driven, results-oriented)
- Read the job description carefully
- Customize for each intern position

#### About the job

As an LE intern, you will contribute to language and multimodal data systems for Meta's Multimodal Assistant. You will be responsible for contributing to product language needs, contributing to the strategic vision for data-based model and product improvements, working with cross-functional partners to create consistent Assistant features across supported languages and modalities, and helping to design and develop Meta's language data infrastructure. You will use your analytical mindset, strong communication skills, collaborative attitude, and personal drive to achieve team goals.We value expertise in any subfield of linguistics -- expect a passion for the scientific study of language -- and value research experience that includes an understanding of the scientific method and experimental design. We are seeking interns who work well on teams, are open to different viewpoints, and can quickly agree on the most optimal solutions to language and multimodal data problems.Our internships are twelve (12) to sixteen (16) weeks long.

Linguist Intern Responsibilities:

- Provide linguistic expertise in the areas of syntax, semantics, pragmatics, dialog, ontology, and NLP.
- · Build datasets, pipelines, and models for ML applications.
- Clearly communicate expertise with project stakeholders.
- Identify best practices and improve procedures across NLP systems.
- Identify linguistic needs and gaps within project ontologies and NLP systems.
- Anticipate language-based problems before they occur.
- Drive projects from conceptualization through launch and beyond with continual improvement and support.
- Design and conduct data-driven experiments.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Currently has, or is in the process of obtaining a Bachelor's degree in the field of Linguistics, Language Technologies, Computational Linguistics, Speech Science, or a related field.
- Training in various areas of linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, and field work.
- Basic familiarity with programming techniques and with languages and platforms such as Praat, Python, SQL, PHP, Hack, JavaScript, and React.
- Demonstrated ability to cooperate within smaller projects or teams.
- Experience contributing to data experiments.
- Experience with hierarchical structures and ontologies.
- Experience with text/image/video labeling problems.
- Experience forming internal team relationships and fostering external relations.
- Must obtain work authorization in country of employment at the time of hire, and maintain ongoing work authorization during employment.

# **Interview Questions**

Know your research & project experience very well

What's your role in the team?

Read job description and prepare for any related technical questions

Why company (behavior questions)

### Be confident



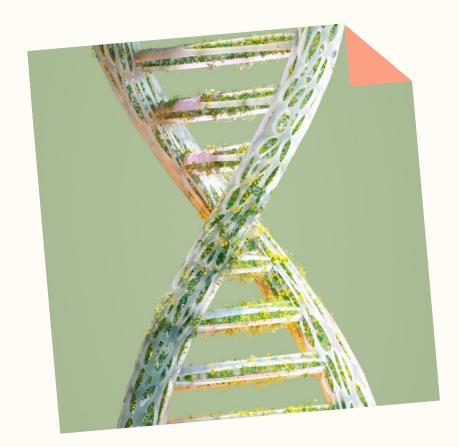
### Illinois International International Student and Scholar Services



### After your offer

F-1 student has 12-month CPT Great resources on ISSS webpage

Get in touch with you mentor



# **Q & A**

### Good luck!