

# Intern WALL OF FAME



**Elise Wilkin**  
**(Public Accountancy, Senior)**  
**Accounting Assistant Intern & Credit/Collections Intern**  
**DFT Communications & Bentley Systems International, Ltd.**

I have been fortunate to participate in two internships during my time at SUNY Fredonia. My first exposure to the professional workplace in my chosen field of study was at DFT Communications. I worked with many accounting functions in a company setting, mainly focusing on Accounts Payable. My supervisor stressed the importance of prioritizing and precision; lessons that I will carry with me into my future career.

I had the opportunity to delve further into corporate accounting through my internship this past summer in Dublin. The study abroad program that I was enrolled in at the University College Dublin was inclusive of an internship with Bentley Systems International, Ltd. During the six weeks, I managed an Accounts Receivable ledger of nearly 300 customer accounts. I interacted with customers in regard to both due and coming due invoices as well as to resolve any issues that might delay the collections process. I was reviewed for my contributions just like the other full-time colleagues in my department. As a result of both my internship experiences, I am more confident in my pursuit for employment after graduation.

Interning is one of the most beneficial and rewarding learning opportunities that you should take advantage of during college. It's during these experiences that you figure out what it is that you're especially good at and what you enjoy about your field of interest. You may even find that you are heading down the wrong career path before it's too late to change your mind. It is incredibly important for accounting majors to have some work experience before leaving college. I would highly recommend an internship with a local company, such as DFT Communications. You get hands-on experience under the supervision of people who are accommodating to your schedule and genuinely care about your success.

Additionally, I highly encourage the participation in study abroad programs. In a foreign setting, the simple things can be the most challenging. For instance, it took weeks until I could finally find my way through the city center of Dublin. Maneuvering my way around Dublin and familiarizing myself with the city definitely enhanced my self-reliance. Not only did I learn how to adapt in an entirely different culture but I also gained invaluable personal and professional connections. My time abroad reignited my love for traveling, thereby altering my professional ambitions to include an international aspect.

Finally, the last piece of advice I'd like to give to Fredonia students is to utilize the CDO! The career counselors go above and beyond to assist you in anything career related. I owe my success in securing internships to their services.