

Internship Overview

The Internship program we offer in conjunction with PPG (The Professional Photography Group) is a unique opportunity for qualified students to experience various aspects of professional photography while learning beyond the classroom. PPG provides high quality photography services for a wide range of clients in the greater Charlotte area and beyond. Some of our corporate clients include Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Charlotte Country Day School, Providence Day School, Charlotte Country Club, Schaeffler Group and many more. Our images are reproduced in magazines, international websites (Marriott, etc.) as well as all kinds of promotional uses. Hotel architecture, school photography, sports, corporate, headshots, product, events and many more photographic areas are commonplace for our group. You can see samples of our work at www.theprophotogroup.com

The internship program grows out of our core value to always be learning and teaching to become better at our craft and to help others along the way. The internship opportunity includes three major areas of learning opportunities over the course of a six-month period. The first is our **monthly training meetings** (usually 3rd Weds of the month in the evening) where our team and interns gather together to learn, practice specific photographic concepts, review past photo shoots and plan towards future shoots. These meetings are a primary benefit of the internship rotation. The second component are **photo shoots** where interns can participate (based on availability) in assisting and learning during real-life field work. The goal of these times is to not only complete the job for our clients but to use the time to teach while we are working. Finally, the unique third component are **sports opportunities** that we have arranged with many pro and college institutions to give our team and interns actual shooting opportunities with all the benefit of sideline access. We believe that action photography is one of the best learning opportunities and some of the examples include college basketball, semi-pro soccer, ultimate frisbee, pro cycling, minor league baseball and many more. These are shoots where the intern is given shot examples, training on the sport, camera setting checklists and much more before the game date as well as assistance at the match by an experienced team leader. Images created at these, while not able to be sold, can be used for the photographer's personal portfolio and these jobs are not paying clients so there is no pressure for an intern to produce images. They are simply incredible learning opportunities.

While there are often many more opportunities throughout the six-month internship than any intern can participate in, we have found the average intern gets the benefits of up to six team training meetings and two to four actual photo shoot learning sessions. There is no cost to the internship and a new six-month rotation is begun every quarter after an informational meeting with those that have expressed interest. While there is no participation requirement, obviously the more an intern can be part of the training

meetings and shoot opportunities, the more they will get out of the experience. Therefore, we encourage all prospective interns to consider what the best six-month period to facilitate the best chance for participation.

The internship program is open to any student of The Photo Classroom who has completed all the Level 1 Certification classes which include: DSLR Bootcamp, Composition, Sports 1, Flash 1 and Next Level: Part 1. Expectations of interns during their rotation include continued participation in classes, good communication about possible involvement and professional interaction with team members, peers and clients. In essence, a driving desire to learn and grow in photography is what we value the most out of each other and our interns. Interns are not paid and will not be producing images for our clients. Interns will learn and help but will not normally have a camera in his hands except for during the above mentioned special sports opportunities and during the team training meetings. There are extended internships that are paid but those are selective and earned opportunities based on his willingness to learn, availability, our evaluation of his photographic ability and most importantly, how well we are able to work together during the first internship period.

Any student who is interested in the internship and has completed the Level 1 Certification requirements, should email Brian Osborne at brian@thephotoclassroom.com to be placed on the interest list for the next quarterly rotation. As that nears, an informational meeting will be setup that would be ideal for candidates to attend to learn more about the program. Then each intern can decide if this is the best six-month period of time to begin his rotation or if they want to wait.