



Connecting for Opportunity: Life Science Cares & Project Onramp

Creating opportunity for all of our neighbors is one of our core values at Life Science Cares. We want our industry to reflect our community and to achieve this, we created the [Project Onramp](#) internship program in 2019 with partners MassBio, MassBioEd and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. Project Onramp connects passionate, high-achieving four-year college students with paid summer internships in the life science sector. Working with Bottom Line, whose students come from low-income backgrounds and are often first in their families to go to college, Project Onramp introduces a diverse cohort of students to careers in the life sciences. That benefits all of us.

By the numbers

-  **89** total matched interns in Summers 2019 and 2020
-  **96** interns hired for Summer 2021 (as of 4/21/21)
-  **96%** of Onramp Alums said they would definitely or more likely consider a career in industry following their internship
-  **18** Onramp alums have graduated college since 2019
-  **9** (50%) are employed full-time in the life sciences or healthcare



Q&A With Project Onramp 2019-2020 intern Le Tran

Le Tran is a senior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst pursuing a dual degree in Marketing (BBA) and Geography (BA) with a concentration in Urban Geography. He will graduate in May 2021.

Q: How did you get connected to Project Onramp?

A: I'm a part of a college access program called Bottom Line and my first exposure to Project Onramp was actually two years ago going into my junior year. I was looking for an internship and it was the inaugural year of Project Onramp. My Bottom Line advisor was like "There's this new program in life sciences" and I was like "Life sciences? I don't know anything about life sciences. I'm a social science person." But at the time I had just transitioned to marketing and they said "there's even roles for you." So I was like "Ooh, this is new this is different!" That's how I got involved two years ago and I did an internship at EMD Serono [in summer 2019] and this past year at Moderna.

Q: Tell us more about your internship at Moderna.

A: I was a corporate communications intern so I worked on both internal and external stuff. Maybe it was just me not fully understanding the capacity that I was working at Moderna at that time. I was like yeah, trials and all (of the COVID-19 vaccine), but now that it's in usage, I'm like, oh wow, I was a part of that. So I thought that was actually amazing and looking back at it, I am like, wow, that was an experience. Obviously my internship was virtual and I didn't mind it being virtual at all actually. Because my bosses were so kind and so helpful and the team was very small. The communications team was three people including me and a VP. So it was nice to get to know them as people and they were easily accessible.





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Q&A With Project Onramp 2019-2020 intern Le Tran Continued

A few things I worked on were reviving a speakers series within the company where employees share out what they are doing whether that's various vaccines, or communications stuff, or research, which I thought was very cool. I did a social media audit to see what people are doing. I also created a high level corporate deck just like "this is who we are this is what we do." We worked with the Calm app for wellness month and I created literature about that for employees.

Q. What surprised you about working for a life science company?

A: *I think there's a role for everyone in life sciences.* I was very jaded in the very beginning. I figured I have to know what these science terms are. But those are all things you can learn on the job and that you only have to have a low level understanding of them. As long as you know what's happening in a general sense. As a business person, I was able to be successful in my job. That was something I was very surprised about. Throughout the summer with Project Onramp we had mixers and professional development time and I met more life science professionals but people who were working in HR or business development and various non-research things. I was like "oh gosh this is kinda cool" and they all thoroughly enjoy what they do but I was very surprised by that. With my time at Moderna I was very pleased with my role there.

Q: Why should companies hire interns? What positive impacts do interns bring?

A: I think interns bring a lot of perspective—we're so young. We're so new. We also bring in talent that is sometimes lacking in a company. At my previous internship at EMD Serono, they ended up needing a mapping project where the company needed someone to map IVF clinics in relation to consumers. I was combing through census data and I was like "this is what I do in classes right now" and I knew how to do it all. That's just one example of how an intern can be so valuable.

For a company, for supervisors and bosses, being in a mentoring role can benefit employees as leaders. Sometimes bosses become better mentors after having an intern.

It's important—allowing students to get the exposure and experience in the sector. It can be difficult as a student, as an undergraduate, to get that experience. It's easier to hire interns [for permanent roles] when they have an understanding about how the company works.

