

Establishing a Geographical Preference

You may think, “I am open to opportunities anywhere” but, actually, to be most effective with your search, you must focus on a specific geographical area. I suggest beginning with three specific cities and then broadening your search if necessary. Always build in flexibility to apply for opportunities that come up but are not within your selected cities.

Why Focus?

- **Interviewing Expense:** Finding a job or internship usually requires interviewing. Often firms are not willing to pay for your travel expenses for interviews so jet setting across the country from city to city is unrealistic.
- **Firm Research:** Before you contact firms regarding opportunities, you must first research the firm to learn about their projects and whether or not the firm appeals to you. You will need to focus on a location to begin identifying and researching firms of interest.
- **Time management:** It would be impossible to research all possible firms that exist. Thorough firm research takes time and effort.

Questions to help you establish an internship location

- Do you prefer to work in a large city where many opportunities exist?
- Do you have a budget to pay for summer housing?
- Do you need to select a city where you can live with friends or relatives?
- Do you want to position yourself in the city where you plan to live following graduation?
- Do you want to live close to family and friends?
- Do you want to live in an environment with access to specific recreational activities?
- What budget have you set for interviewing and travel expenses?

Questions to help you establish a possible location for full-time employment

- Do you prefer to work in a large city where many opportunities exist?
- Are you interested in the community involvement that may be more accessible in a small town environment?
- Do you have a preference for the quality of life that is available in an urban or rural environment?
- Do you want to position yourself in an area where further educational opportunities are available?
- Do you want to live close to family and friends?
- Do you want to live in an environment with access to specific recreational activities?
- What budget have you set for interviewing and travel expenses?