

INDUSTRY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME INTERN FAQ 2026



Programme Overview

The Industry Internship Programme is an initiative from the NZ Music Commission to help emerging music professionals and recent tertiary graduates gain experience and kick-start their careers in the music sector.

Interns are selected via an application process and offered a placement with a New Zealand music organisation or business that has applied to the Music Commission to host an Intern. Interns are mentored by their hosts and develop skills, knowledge and industry networks during their placement.

Running since 2018, the Industry Internship Programme has successfully placed Interns into a wide range of industry roles each year – including working in recording studios, events management, live music venues, PR and publishing companies, and plenty more.

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The internship has helped achieve two things for me. Firstly, it's helped me get a foot in the door. I feel creative careers in New Zealand can be a bit challenging to get into, and having the internship has been an amazing opportunity to make connections. Secondly, it's given me the realisation the career that always seemed so far out of reach isn't a long shot of a goal - provided I'm willing to put in the hard work to achieve it.

Ryan Patterson, Intern



Who can apply to be an Intern?

Anyone looking to develop their career in the music sector can apply to be an Intern, and we especially encourage emerging music professionals or recent tertiary graduates to apply.

If you have previously applied to be an Intern you are welcome to re-apply again! However, if you have already had a successful application to the Internship Programme, you cannot be selected for an internship for a second consecutive year.

NB: You will need to be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident to be eligible to apply.

Do Interns get paid?

Yes! Interns are paid the 2026 living wage rate before tax by the Music Commission.

What kind of roles are available?

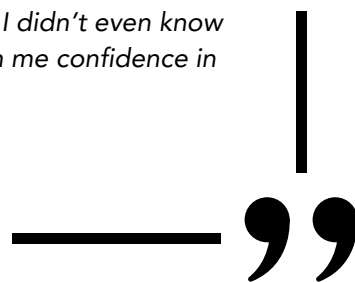
Internship roles available each year depend on the Host Organisations taking part in the Programme.

In the past Interns have been placed in a wide variety of music sector positions, including working with record labels, music management, PR and events support, recording studio roles, film and television music supervision, and much more. The Music Commission invites Hosts to apply in the first instance, and the job titles of the available internships will be advertised when intern applications open.



This internship has exposed me to so many avenues I didn't even know were an option within the industry. It's actually given me confidence in my future within the industry.

Charlie Bardot, Intern



When do Internships start, and how long do they run for?

Internships are expected to start between January and March 2026. In some exceptional circumstances internships may start in December 2025. All Internships must be completed before the end of June 2026. Internships are generally for 16 weeks, and can be part-time or full-time hours (depending on the needs of the Host Organisation).

How do I apply?

Intern application forms will be available on the *Industry Internship Programme* section of the Music Commission website, nzmusic.org.nz. Applicants will be shortlisted based on the information submitted in their cover letter, CV and intern application form – with priority given to those that show clear intentions and goals towards future music industry employment.



I think an internship helps you to develop and discover what sparks your interest, and allows you to gain insights within the music industry that you can only really get from being immersed in that environment.

Mia Caintic, Intern



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE NZ MUSIC COMMISSION
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