

About PEN and INL

Parents Education Network (PEN) is a coalition of parents collaborating with educators, students and the community to empower and bring academic success to students with learning and attention difficulties. INL represents an exciting new aspect of PEN's work.

Internships for New Learning

(INL) was created through the vision of **Beatrice Amblard**, who struggled with dyslexia in school and eventually found work that she loved by being exposed to the world of craftsmanship. She is now a master leather artisan and a successful entrepreneur who established INL as a way of giving back to the community.



Beatrice Amblard, owner of April in Paris and founder of INL



April in Paris

For more information on becoming an INL apprentice or mentor, please contact program coordinator Maureen Bruce:

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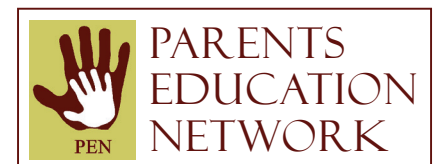
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**INTERNSHIPS FOR
NEW LEARNING**



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What is INL?

Internships for New Learning (INL) is a new program facilitated by PEN that matches high school students who have learning or attention difficulties with mentors in artisan craft activities and other creative occupations. Mentors will instruct interns in a craft or occupation and introduce them to career-related resources, providing insights into the world of work and helping them hone their creative skills.

Who is qualified to be a mentor?

INL mentors are established artisans and craftspeople who have an interest in sharing their skills and knowledge with students. They must have patience with the learning process and the time (about 2-5 hours per week) to devote to student instruction. Ideally, the mentors' learning profiles will match those of their students. It is helpful if they have some familiarity with different learning methods.

Who is qualified for an internship?

Any student age 13-19 is eligible to apply. Preference will be given to students with learning and attention difficulties. Students must have an interest in an industry and respect for the working environment. They should be serious about learning the craft and committed to a high standard of work.

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How are mentors and students matched?

Mentors volunteer for the program and a job description is circulated to students who have expressed an interest. An initial interview and pilot instruction period are then arranged to determine if there is a good match.

Students make application for the internship program through PEN. They are then introduced to a potential mentor and internship site to get an overview of the program and to participate in a question and answer session.

After selecting an opportunity, students will spend one half-day with the mentor to see if choice is a good fit before both parties commit to the program.

Is there an orientation for students?

Depending on the business, the student would observe in shop for about one week for 2 hours per day to learn the elements of the industry and to determine interest.

Is there an orientation for mentors?

Yes, mentors will receive an orientation to the program through PEN where they will learn



An INL apprentice at work

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about the terms of the program and have an opportunity to meet current mentors and students.

How long will internships last?

Internships will be set up for 3 months, essentially one semester or summer session. It will be up to the student and mentor to decide if the apprenticeship continues after that point.

How much time does employer have to spend with intern?

Hours depend on the job, student, and industry, but the employer should have time to devote to training. After the student has attained some level of confidence, supervision would still be necessary.

Will interns be paid?

No, apprenticeships are a learning experience. Students should not expect to be compensated for their time.

What is the cost to the employer for this program?

The employer must be willing to donate her or his time. The cost for additional equipment needed to supply the student (uniform, tools, etc.) will be provided through PEN.

What is the cost to the intern?

Interns must be able to get to and from the place of employment and to meet the dress requirements of the business.

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