

Take your next step to connect to us. Email us if you have an interesting story to share related to career.

facebook.com/  
thedailystar.nextstep  
Email: nextstep@thedailystar.net

The Daily Star

DHAKA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2018

AGRAHAYAN 30, 1425 BS

e-mail: nextstep@thedailystar.net

# NEXT STEP

## Apprenticeships and internships WHAT'S RIGHT FOR ME?

When it comes to choosing between an apprenticeship or an internship, the factors to consider are very straightforward. Knowing how each of the two works should do 90% of the job. But when you have to choose between two similar positions, the choice becomes a little more difficult.

The judgement should be done through a comprehensive process that leads to what is best suited for you.

**FIXATE ON ONE: APPRENTICESHIP OR INTERNSHIP**

Is it a hands-on skill development platform you're looking for, in an organisation you want to work in? Or is it a position you want to assess yourself in, to see whether or not you're fit for it? With the former offered by apprenticeship and latter via internship, you have a host of options from which to narrow down from.

**WEIGH ACCORDING TO YOUR FIELD OF STUDIES**

If you are nearing your graduation and plan on entering your nine-to-five job life soon, you have probably settled for apprenticeship. In this case, your options may vary depending on your academic discipline. In contrast, an intern may have the opportunity to consider all the departments of an organisation rather than having to choose one specific function, like HR or finance.

**HOW MUCH TIME CAN YOU ALLOCATE?**

Here's where you need to segregate your choice on the basis of part-time and full-time requirements from the job. Expect apprenticeships to ask for full-time work hours, as they involve extensive all-hands-on deck kind of tasks. Internships on the other hand, generally employ students from various levels of college/university. So they tend to have the provision of both part-time and full-time work hours.

**APPRENTICESHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, AND JOBS ARE THREE DIFFERENT THINGS** Apprenticeships are programs that are there to provide in-depth training for the work you'll be doing in the long-run, whereas internships place interns in a professional realm where they can figure out which career path they may want to pursue in the future.

When it comes to being appointed for a full-fledged job, a student in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of university possibly wouldn't be given a permanent position, unless it's a job that doesn't require specialised knowledge. Given this disparity in the amount of responsibility you'll be imparted with in an internship versus in a job, the

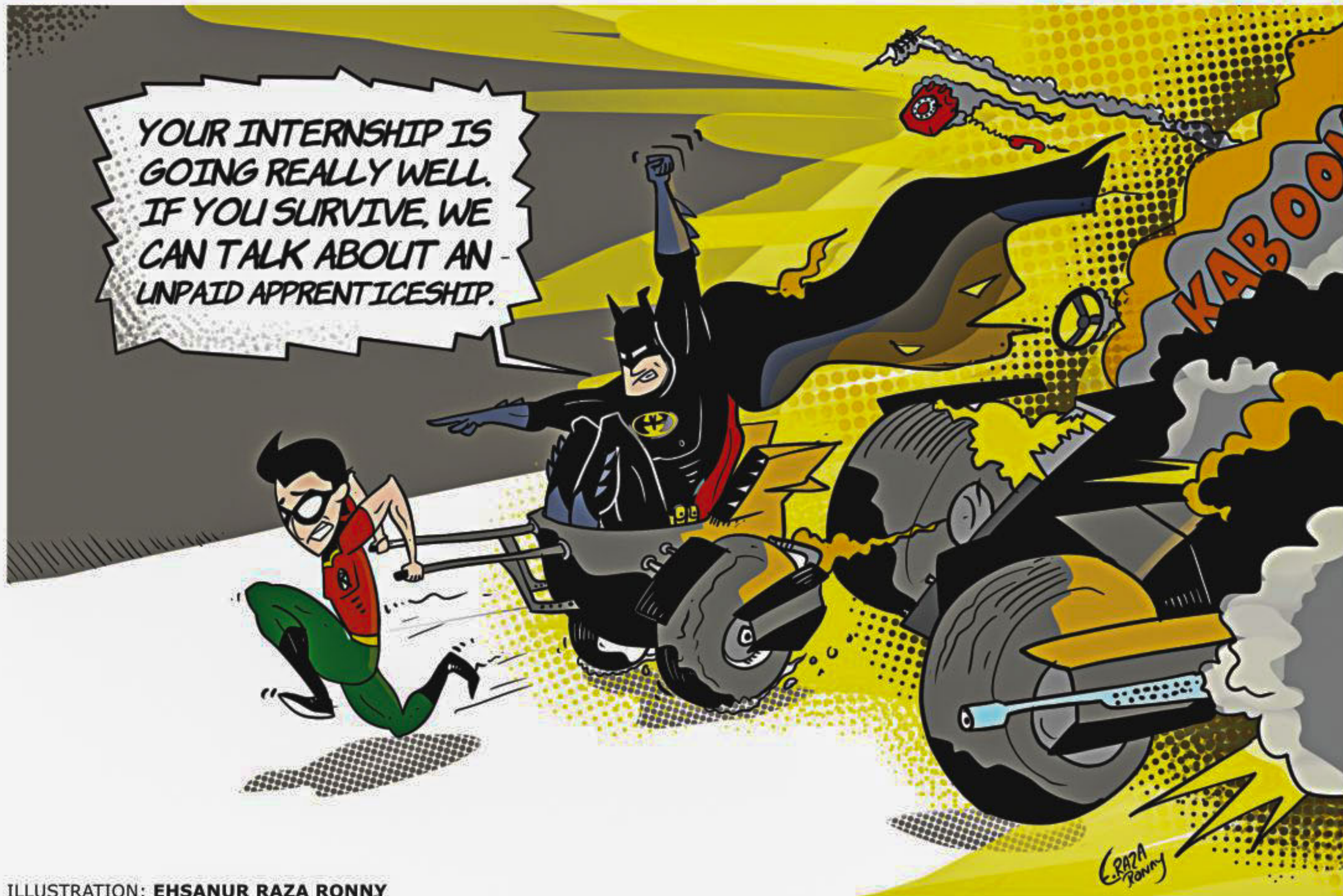


ILLUSTRATION: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

former definitely has a greater scope at helping you learn more practical and serious work.

**THE PAYMENT ISSUE**

Apprenticeships usually come with a reasonable pay, but there are both paid and unpaid internships. The factors to consider while choosing here are whether the company you're willing to intern in has a lot to offer not only in terms of company growth, but also personal development. Such internships usually come with other benefits and much more flexibility than paid internships do. If you are willing to sacrifice your time for a work experience that doesn't pay, make sure the learning experience and facilities it offers are worth it.

**SUMMER, FALL, WINTER: WHAT'S YOUR SEASON?**

I don't know about you, but I definitely start questioning whether my sanity is still intact after a week's worth of Netflix binging at a stretch. If you have felt the same, why not keep in mind to dedicate the rest of the next summer/winter vacation to a more fruitful venture by signing up for an

internship? Rafid Zaman Khan, who has worked as a winter intern at Lamudi says, "In Bangladesh, winter internships are more popular for doing full-time internships, which also makes them all the more competitive. Many major organisations give out winter internship opportunities, knowing the students will be able to commit better during holidays."

**CORPORATE OR STARTUP?**

Internships and apprenticeships are offered by both established companies, as well as startups. Working for either comes with its own set of perks. Working for well-known companies will be naturally preferred, but often small companies come with big opportunities to learn too. Startups normally have smaller teams and a smaller budget. Startup employees have to pull their individual weights. So working for startups will likely have you working on impactful projects that will have recognisable outcomes and learning scopes, while working for big corporations will give you exposure and a bigger network.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Take care of issues like what tasks you will be expected to do once you are on the job. Apprenticeships provide thorough on-the-job training while internships impart entry-level administrative knowledge that involve tasks ranging from making photocopies to creating content for a business pitch. So knowing what type of work you'll be doing is essential.

At the end of the day, you will excel in a field you want to work in, rather than one you supposedly should be in. It is important for you to realise when to switch when you don't like a line of work, and when to hold on to it when you do. Be it internship, apprenticeship, or a job, it shouldn't need saying that your personal preference should get priority over everything else.

ESHANEE SADHUKHAN

Eshanee is a junior at IBA, DU. She watches travel videos and saves whatever money she has left after eating junk food for travelling. Send her good vibes at eshane333@gmail.com.

### THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY



20 YEARS AGO



## Why you should learn a foreign language

According to research, bilingual people tend to be rational decision makers, perceptive thinkers and excellent multi-taskers. This is a great advantage for Bangladeshis since most of us are either proficient or working to be proficient in both Bangla and English. However, in the modern world, it is quintessential to learn a foreign language that is not just spoken by the largest number of people, but also across the largest number of countries. As such, Mandarin, French, Spanish and German have repeatedly made it to various lists of must-learn foreign languages. Learning a language isn't easy, but today, with the plethora of easily available resources, it is worth setting aside time and energy to learn a new language for the following reasons -

**STRENGTHEN YOUR CORPORATE NETWORK**

Without a shadow of doubt, a new language will help you reach out to more people. A person will trust somebody who speaks their language over somebody who doesn't. By overcoming language barriers, a foreign

language will essentially amplify your network of important contacts. The learning of a language isn't restricted to the verbal delivery of it and always involves a deeper understanding of the culture of the country of its origin. Thus learning a language helps you understand the cultural norms, mannerisms, etiquette and customs of those who speak the language. This will significantly boost your business prospects in a foreign land.

**ESTABLISH CROSS-CULTURAL FRIENDSHIPS**

On visiting foreign lands, I've often found myself getting melancholic at the idea of missing out on the opportunity of truly knowing some interesting people and hence missing out on what could be a genuine cultural encounter. The experience of visiting a country becomes entirely different when you know the language. Not just that, it's always going to be a rewarding learning experience to get an outsider's perspective about your culture. This will kindle a kind of friendship and understanding that isn't possible without a common tongue. The experience will make you considerably more perceptive.

**BOOST YOUR CREATIVITY**

When speaking a newly learned language, you will often stumble for words. Being unable to remember the original word or phrase, you will intuitively look for alternates in order to correctly express yourself. This leaves a great impact on your mind and trains you to provide multiple solutions to a single problem. It substantially improves your thinking abilities and helps you solve problems more creatively and logically.

Once you've learned one foreign language, learning another becomes faster and easier. This is called "metalinguistic awareness," the ability to process linguistic configurations, retain muscle memory and ultimately execute and transfer linguistic knowledge. Start learning a new language and unearth a surfeit of possibilities across the world.

SYEDA ADIBA ARIF

Adiba Arif is starting her senior year at university in a month, but is yet to decide on a major. Reach her at adibaarif.3@gmail.com to help her figure it out.

## Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.

## How to tell a good internship from a bad one

*One of the best ways to get an idea about the corporate life that awaits you is to do an internship in a company of your liking. It acclimatises you to the organizational culture and lets you network with important people who can help you kick start your career. However, since the ultimate goal of an internship is to milk some training and learning out of it, steer clear of bad internships displaying the following signs -*

**YOU ARE ONLY DOING THE 'DIRTY' WORK**

As an intern, you cannot expect to execute the most crucial tasks for the company. But, if you spend most hours of your internship just fetching coffee, making copies, or shredding junk, then that internship is something you shouldn't be doing. Doing these once in a while is alright, but these should never be your primary job.

**YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO DO**

If you find yourself at office during ungodly hours, ask yourself if you really are adding any value. A lot of internships just require you to go to office, sit there for 20 hours a week, and return home with nothing but the daunting knowledge that you haven't really gotten anything done. Your time to make a difference is limited; do not waste it doing nothing.

**YOU AREN'T GETTING PAID**

Sure, internships aren't going to pay you in 6 digits and rarely even in 5 digits. But an internship that doesn't pay you anything at all is more likely to reinforce the stereotype of interns as coffee-fetchers and copy makers. Moreover, a paid internship looks more credible on your resume than an unpaid one. The only time you should go for an unpaid internship is if it promises and delivers actual hands-on learning experi-

SYEDA ADIBA ARIF

