The Chicago Tribune's newsroom internship program seeks college juniors, seniors and graduate students for 12-week paid internships. Opportunities will be considered in all newsroom departments: metro, breaking news, sports, business, graphics, copy editing/design, photo/video and features.

To be eligible, candidates must have completed at least one internship at a daily news organization other than their college paper. Additionally, candidates must be able to work in the United States legally. Interns will work 40 hours a week and must be able to, and often do, cover major stories their first days on the job.

Send your cover letter, resume, work examples and the names of at least two professional and one school reference to Chicago Tribune Managing Editor Jane Hirt jhirt@tribune.com. Limit your clips to 5-7 pieces that represent your best work and show your range of experience.

In your cover letter, please specify whether you're interested in a fall, winter, spring or summer internship and specify whether you are seeking a reporting, editing, photography, design or other type of internship.

Deadlines: The deadline for the highly competitive metro summer reporting internship is Dec. 1. There is no deadline for internships in other departments or for other seasons of the year. However, the earlier you apply, the better your chances may be. It is not uncommon for students to apply in October for an internship the following summer.

* * * * *

If you are interested specifically in opinion writing, the Tribune’s editorial board offers a part-time, paid internship that lasts 12 weeks. Those interested in an editorial board internship should contact Dodie Hofstetter at dhofstetter@tribune.com.
Metpro is a unique program designed to help beginning journalists launch careers and boost diversity in Tribune newsrooms.

We’re seeking high-potential, highly motivated aspiring journalists with diverse backgrounds or life experiences. The program’s main thrust is to provide participants — recent college graduates or journalists with limited professional experience — the training and support necessary to put them on a fast track to success. Metpro is not an internship but rather a formal program customized to help trainees realize their goals.

Program
The Metpro program at the Chicago Tribune offers beginning reporters the opportunity to work with, and learn from, some of the finest journalists in the business. Participants gain experience in reporting and writing, interviewing, researching, investigating and covering beats. They learn while doing. The Metpro residency lasts two years. The Los Angeles Times also offers a Metpro program. Go to www.metpronews.com to learn more about L.A.’s specific program.

Metpro reporters cover breaking news and are expected to write enterprise news features. The topics include criminal justice, health, education, religion, city government, business, and arts and entertainment. Mentoring and periodic evaluations occur throughout the two-year residency.

Requirements
Participants must be U.S. citizens or legal residents. A college degree is preferred. Each participant must pass a pre-employment drug screening and background check. Each participant must possess a valid driver’s license and a reliable vehicle upon entering the program. Preferred candidates will have previous newsroom experience, either through previous internships or jobs at a news organization.

Selection Process
Participants are chosen by hiring managers at the Chicago Tribune based on a variety of factors, including internship experience, writing samples, a writing test, an interview, a personal essay, college transcripts and recommendations.

Compensation
Participants receive a salary plus benefits. The residency lasts two years.

Calendar
• Spring 2014: Finalists interview for the program.
• Summer/Fall 2014: The Metpro resident is selected and begins in the newsroom.
For more information or to download an application packet, go to www.metpronews.com.

The Chicago Tribune contact is Deputy Metro Editor Phil Jurik, pjurik@tribune.com.
Prize-winning journalism

The Chicago Tribune is home to many award-winning journalists. Among the 2013 awards:

◆ "Playing With Fire," an investigation of toxic flame retardants and the deceptive campaigns two industries waged to promote the chemicals, won several national awards, including the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting and the Nieman Foundation Taylor Family Award for Fairness in Newspapers.

◆ "An Empty Desk Epidemic," a series examining truancy in Chicago Public Schools won the Education Writers Association's investigative reporting award and the Freedom of Information medal from Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE).

◆ Our news apps team won the Global Editors Network (GEN) hackathon competition at the New York Times.

◆ The Tribune earned Top 10 honors from the Associated Press Sports Editors for its Sunday section and web site.

◆ Scott Strazzante was named Photographer of the Year for the 10th time by the Illinois Press Photographers Association.

◆ Our design and graphics staff won seven awards in the annual Society for News Design competition.

◆ Scott Stantis won the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Editorial Cartooning.

◆ Mary Schmich won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

Investment in the future

At the Chicago Tribune, we believe and invest in our future. In 2011, when other newspapers were cutting back, we increased coverage in the paper by 44 pages a week. We believe in hiring talented people to push our journalism forward.

Events and reader outreach

Our Trib Nation team is dedicated to connecting the newsroom to our readers online and in person. We host many events, including policy discussions, author meet-and-greets, an annual literary festival and more.

Digital innovation

At 166 years old, the Chicago Tribune has a rich history. But we are focused on the future. Here, innovation is expected and rewarded. Our digital apps team creates interactive databases that help inform and entertain readers. We create community and conversation through social media. We continue to innovate on the Web and mobile devices—and whatever's next.

Reach

The Tribune is the largest newspaper in Chicago and the fifth-largest Sunday paper in the country. Chicagotribune.com gets more than 100 million page views per month. The Tribune's Washington bureau, the Los Angeles Times and other newspapers across the country provide a national and global footprint for our journalism online and in print.

Workplace culture

The Chicago Tribune is a collegial, diverse newsroom that supports work/life balance and provides opportunities for flexible work arrangements. Want to stay fit? Head downstairs to the Tribune fitness center. Looking to get involved in the community? Take a day off—on us—to do some volunteer work. Looking for development? Join our newsroom mentoring program. Need to recharge during the day? Head up to our 22nd-floor outdoor terrace for a breathtaking view of the city, or step outside and sit by the river. Tribune Tower is on Michigan Avenue—with the shops and restaurants of the world-famous Magnificent Mile just steps away.

Chicago, second to none

Chicago, the third-largest city in the country, is one of the most dynamic cities in the world. It offers excellent restaurants, exciting sports teams, premier arts and cultural institutions, easy access to public transportation, a plethora of public parks, sandy beaches, Lake Michigan and night life with something for everyone.