



Bronx Innovation Factory

Call for Student Researchers

Commonwise Education and the MIT Community Innovators Lab are looking for 3 to 5 graduate-level student interns to develop a feasibility study and implementation plan for the Bronx Innovation Factory. Students will work collaboratively as a team over 10 weeks during summer 2018 to research and create a final report, which will be released in the fall.

The Bronx Innovation Factory (BXIF) is a center for advanced manufacturing led by women and people of color. At its core, BXIF provides shared fabrication facilities; targeted business incubation; and training in manufacturing and design skills, entrepreneurship, and economic democracy. Launched by [Commonwise Education](#) and the [MIT Community Innovators Lab](#), in partnership with [Mondragon LKS](#), BXIF leverages the borough's existing entrepreneurial talent and manufacturing base to build shared wealth and ownership for Bronxites. You can read more about the Bronx Innovation Factory [here](#).

The Innovation Factory is currently in its prototype phase, offering limited programming on a few essential fabrication machines. Students will be conducting research to prepare for implementation of the full program in a freestanding facility in 2019. The final report will include the following sections:

- Site identification
- Equipment needs
- Recruitment strategy
- Programming and curriculum
- Budget and staffing
- Fundraising strategy and business model

Responsibilities:

- Conduct research on one or more of the above topics through interviews with relevant stakeholders, site visits, scholarly publications, and observations of the current prototype



- Coordinate closely with other researchers to compare findings and brainstorm solutions
- Analyze findings and recommend courses of action
- Develop timelines, budgets, maps, and other implementation tools based on recommendations
- Compile research, recommendations, and implementation tools into a final report

Required qualifications:

- Excellent project planning and management skills
- Familiarity with one or more of the following topics:
 - urban economic development, workforce development, and business development
 - advanced manufacturing
 - real estate development and construction, esp. commercial and industrial real estate
- Facility with arcGIS, QGIS, or other mapping software
- Ability to build budgets and pro forma
- Works well in teams

Preferred qualifications:

- Understanding of the Bronx's geographic and socioeconomic context
- Familiarity with Adobe Creative Suite, especially inDesign
- Familiarity with economic democracy and alternative approaches to economic development
- Experience with community organizing and community-based organizations
- Familiarity with innovation thinking and innovation ecosystems

Compensation:

\$20 per hour



Location:

Interns will need to be based in NYC for the summer and will work primarily from Commonwise Education's office at 2431 Morris Ave, Bronx, NY 10468.

Dates:

Dates will be Monday, June 11 through Friday, August 17. To the extent possible, students should also plan to attend a kickoff session in April or May.

Eligibility:

This opportunity is open to currently enrolled graduate students in relevant fields, as well as recent alumni.

To apply:

Please email a resume and cover letter to jobs@commonwise.nyc with the subject line: BXIF Summer Intern by **March 1, 2018**.

Commonwise is an equal opportunity employer, and we are committed to a diverse workplace. Women, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, and Bronx residents are strongly encouraged to apply.