



2025 Internship Program FAQ

What does the day-to-day life of an intern look like?

Programming at North House, just like the crafts we teach, is grounded in its place in the North. Central to that sense of place is the seasonality of life that is reflected in the rhythm of the internship program. In the spring, interns spend time getting oriented and learning the weekly flow of tasks and supporting duties, doing trainings for various responsibilities including teaching opportunities, roles interfacing with the public and facilities operations. Interns also start taking classes right away to develop their craft skills and learn what kinds of crafts they are drawn to! In the summer, interns are busy with varied duties depending on the day - one day they might be deckhanding, and the next, they may be teaching a class or firing the wood fired oven for our weekly Friday pizza bakes. They work in the school store or support campus facilities, or they may be in class weaving a basket or forging a knife! Every day is different and it can feel like there is a lot going on - especially in the summer. In the fall, interns continue to support various campus needs while spending more individual craft time. Regardless of the season, the program is an immersive experience and requires participants to be open and willing to try new things.

What is the schedule like? How many hours per week will I be scheduled?

A clear and active work schedule is posted a minimum of 2 weeks in advance and up to a month in advance. Interns are typically scheduled to work 40 hours per week. Typically the work week starts on Wednesday with a group meeting, and a staff meeting, followed by regular facilities support roles including flipping classrooms, grocery shopping and doing laundry. The remainder of the work week is scheduled in various roles including working in the school store, facilities, deckhanding, supporting public programs and more. Some scheduled time is designated as 'slojd time' - independent work time for craft. Taking a class as a student counts toward scheduled hours for that week.

Will I get to take classes as a student? What is expected of me during class? Will I have access to work spaces on campus to practice my craft?

Yes! The internship program manager coordinates a series of Intern Intensive classes that are designed specifically to give the cohort a chance to develop in craft together. Some of these classes overlap with trainings, such as an introduction to woodfired baking that prepares students for teaching breads programs in the summer and supporting weekly pizza potlucks. Additionally, interns have \$3500 course credit for tuition and materials for selected courses. This typically equates to 8-12 classes of various lengths (from North House's course catalog) in addition to the 6-8 Intern Intensive classes.

During class, interns get the opportunity to participate as a student and try their hand at new crafts! This is one of the great benefits of the program. Just as for other North House community members, interns continue to represent and support the school while in class, and may be asked to assist the instructor as needed, such as seeking out a different tool or putting on a fresh pot of coffee for the class!

Another benefit of the program is the opportunity to take advantage of our beautiful harborside campus and the resources available to practice budding craft skills. A compact intern workspace is available throughout interns' time at North House. We also hope that interns take advantage of classroom spaces when available, while upholding the best space use ethics and taking care of spaces and equipment. It is important to note that our campus is a busy place, and when there isn't class in session, there is likely one getting ready to start in a classroom on any given day. Spaces may not always be available for independent use, and interns will work with the program manager and the classroom manager to plan use of spaces accordingly.

What is the housing/living situation like?

The internship program at North House is an immersive experience, and includes a communal living environment with the fellow interns in a cohort. In spring of 2024, the interns moved into the newly remodeled living space on the north side of campus. The kitchen/common area boasts a stunning southern view across the campus to Lake Superior. There are two bathrooms and fully furnished private rooms for each individual. No pets are allowed.

What is life like in Grand Marais, Minnesota?

Grand Marais is a small, rural harbor village nestled between Minnesota's Sawtooth Mountains and Lake Superior- just 40 miles from the Canadian border. The community is closely connected to the northern landscape; artisans, craftspeople, and adventurers alike are inspired by the lake's horizon and the rugged shoreline. Grand Marais also boasts the Gunflint Trail, which begins in town and dead-ends in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness- a million acre designated wilderness area perfect for spotting a moose, canoeing, hiking and exploring. Nature lovers, paddlers, and tourists love to come to Grand Marais for a vacation and adventure destination. Summertime can be very busy, both in town and on campus, and interns help welcome a steady flow of visitors, especially during the summer months. At times, living in such a rural area can feel isolating, and amenities can be hard to come by, but most residents welcome the trade off as we enjoy hiking, ski trails, swimming, sailing, and everything else this pristine wilderness has to offer!

What have past participants said about the program?

Intern alumni have reported that their experience in the Craft Education Internship at North House had an enormous positive impact on their lives.

"I was not who I was before I came. I was who I am when I left. I found myself on the shore. I will always return."

"It has changed my life and I don't regret it for one minute. It taught me a different way to be in the world and that is invaluable. I see things differently, I engage in learning differently. I will forever be different because of it."

Generally interns describe their experience as challenging and rewarding. Some of the most challenging aspects of the program according to intern alumni:

- The intensity of the summer season brings on a wide variety of tasks, and a lot of public interaction. The varied elements of the internship is what sets it apart from other programs, and it is also part of what makes it so demanding- hosting a pizza bake one day, working in facilities the next day, and deckhanding the next.
- Feelings of isolation and a lack of diversity in the craft community in a small northern town.
- The difficulties of managing personal finances with a small living stipend and the high living costs in a small, remote community.
- Interns typically have a strong curiosity and desire to dive deep into the world of craft, and they are also scheduled supporting duties in many other areas of the operation of the school. Finding a balance with investing time in craft, making social connections, and recharging with a rigorous schedule can be difficult.

The program team at North House keeps communication open and leads with curiosity in conversation with participants in an effort to ensure that the program continues to have a positive impact. Some challenges are inherent to the program– the internship is a time-limited experience, and therefore is intentionally immersive. Interns are pushed to try new things all the time, which is both intense and meaningful.

Interns report the positive impact of the program both while participating in the program and long term. Some of the reported program benefits include:

- Connecting with the North House community and the wider community of craft.
“I am so grateful for my experience as a North House Intern. Being welcomed into our Craft Community changed my life.”

- Gaining skills and knowledge through intensive craft immersion.
- Education and teaching experience is highly valued by intern alumni.
“[The internship] developed my ability and confidence in teaching ten fold.”

“The education on how to teach was highly beneficial and directly influenced how I teach and make it financially as a craftsperson now.”

What is the application process like?

We typically open the application in the beginning of August each year, and close it in mid-late September. The application includes a request for a cover letter, resume, references, responses to 4-6 written questions, and a personal portfolio documenting teaching/leadership experience and craft experience. Interviews are typically in mid-October.

What are some other ways to learn more about the program before I apply?

- Visit campus! Take a class or consider attending one of our [annual events](#).
- [Volunteer](#) at an event or one of our Friday Night Pizza Bakes in the summer.
- Check out our resources– [request a catalog](#), review our [website](#) and [subscribe to our eNewsletter](#).
- Sign up for an extended [work study session](#). This is one of the best ways to gain experience working on campus and living life in Grand Marais!