

2020 Goldman Sachs Intern Survey

While our 2020 summer internship experience looked quite different than years past, one constant was our tradition of asking our global class for their thoughts on everything from social media to sustainability and the future of work. From their homes and desks around the world, 71 percent of them shared their perspectives, preferences and predictions.

PRESENTING OUR SUMMER INTERN CLASS

2,727 Summer Analysts
129 Summer Associates
478 Schools
54 Majors
52% Women

(Figures reflect the overall intern class, not just those who completed the survey.)

Most of our interns (71%) joined us from their families' homes.

Day to day, our interns don't feel like themselves without...

Exercise 26%
Social Media 22%
Caffeine 20%

Hot takes: our interns are...

81% Dog People and 19% Cat People
64% Video Callers and 36% Phone Callers
61% Night Owls and 39% Early Birds

WORKING WORLD

Pandemic lockdowns have created a new virtual reality. Our interns believe that working remotely could have a positive impact on their productivity and work/life balance. However, when it comes to their studies, they worry that the virtual environment could negatively impact their performance.

63 percent of interns expect that a lasting impact of COVID-19 will be the normalization of flexible working.

75 percent expect that remote work and school will have a negative impact on fostering relationships.

Thinking about their next job, our interns prioritize:

Advancement opportunities 97%
Nature of their day-to-day work 97%
Who their colleagues will be 95%
Employer having an important purpose 91%
(Rated on a scale from 'Very Important' to 'Not a Priority')

Our interns plan on retiring at many different points in their lives.

16% before 55
33% between 55-65
12% after 65
39% want to work as long as possible

PANDEMIC PERSPECTIVES

COVID-19 has changed how our interns perceive the world – and especially how they feel about being out in public. Our interns said they would never look the same way at:

Travel	25%
Attending live events	25%
Eating out	20%
(Most affected activities)	

“Now I regret all of the tickets I never bought.”

“The money I spent on coffees I now donate to a different charity every week!”

“Will never take the opportunity to travel for granted ever again.”

“Anything with a large crowd will have me thinking twice.”

Our interns predict that COVID-19 will have the most transformative effect on the following industries:

Healthcare	15%
Education	21%
Travel and Transportation	23%

61 percent of our interns consciously spend less and save more in light of COVID-19.

82 percent predict face masks will be used worldwide to prevent the spread of other diseases.

CURRENT AND FUTURE EVENTS

When it comes to the environment, our interns see the greatest long-term impact coming from:

Plant-based meat alternatives	12%
Electric cars	21%
A shift to solar energy	31%
The elimination of single-use plastics	36%

From a range of items once considered essential for modern life, 51 percent of our interns chose landline telephones as the most likely to be obsolete within 10 years while 31 percent expect it to be the checkbook.

With the US presidential election only months away, 64 percent of our interns believe Joe Biden will be elected as president.

Because of the pandemic, most of our interns believe that Brexit plans will be delayed.

The Americas	80%
Asia Pacific	77%
Europe, Middle East and Africa	55%

Systemic racial inequities in the US and their deep, global impact have caused our interns to look up. This is how our interns have taken a stand so far:

Spoken to family and friends about racial discrimination	71%
Educated myself by reading a book or article	65%
Changed my behaviour on social media to show solidarity	27%
Donated to organisations driving change	26%
Contacted public officials or protested in person	20%
(Top five choices of those offered)	

MEDIA MATTERS

90 percent of our interns prefer to get their news from websites, apps and social media rather than cable TV or newspapers.

While streaming services have boomed in lockdown, just 39 percent of our interns have subscribed to a new service in the last few months. Netflix is the clear favorite (42%) vs. Amazon Prime (22%) as the next top choice.

26 percent of our interns are binge-watchers, viewing whole seasons in a single sitting – though 57 percent prefer to watch just a few episodes at a time.

POSITIVELY SOCIAL

During the pandemic, our interns reported that their average screen time has increased, even excluding online classes.

70 percent believe that social media has a net-positive impact on society.

While they're on their phones, the app our interns around the world are most likely to be scrolling is Instagram.

The Americas	44%
Europe, Middle East and Africa	40%
Asia Pacific	24%

However, WhatsApp, the second-most-used app globally, is yet to make an impact among our interns in the Americas.

The Americas	8%
Europe, Middle East and Africa	34%
Asia Pacific	42%

While TikTok may be making headlines, it has yet to make an impression with our interns.

Don't use	77%
Do use	23%