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Employee Spotlight: 2025 Summer Interns

In recognition of National Intern Day today, NBA interns Brent Yoo, Emma Elsbecker, Michael Dippolito and Rachel Suttle discuss their experiences this summer and their respective journeys to the league.



What inspired you to apply for the NBA internship program and what was your journey to getting here?



Brent Yoo,
International
Content
Partnerships
Intern, Duke
University

BRENT YOO: I knew people from Duke who had interned here before, and as I approached the final internship of my college career, I felt that the NBA was the perfect place to bring together my academic journey, my school experience, and everything I'd worked toward. I grew up in South Korea and became a passionate Clippers fan, which sparked my interest in sports writing. That led to early opportunities with SB Nation and covering Overtime Elite. At Duke, I managed social media for Kyle Filipowski and helped secure NIL deals for athletes. I took a semester in LA, interned at Slam and UTA, and

eventually worked with Klutch Sports on client services and marketing. All of it centered around the NBA, which has always been the common thread in my journey.

EMMA ELSBECKER: I've worked in sports for the past three years, including motorsports, but basketball has always been my first love growing up in Phoenix as a Suns fan. With a background in content production, I wanted to shift toward the business side of creative work. In April 2024, during my master's orientation, I met Julian Sun—an NBA intern last year—who helped me realize this was the exact role I'd been aiming for. I applied with a clear focus on joining the media distribution team, interviewed in January, and officially joined a few weeks later. It's been everything I hoped for.



Emma Elsbecker,
Content
Distribution
Partnerships
Intern, New York
University, Stern
School of Business



Michael Dippolito,
Finance, LatAm
Intern, Stevens
Institute of
Technology

MICHAEL DIPPOLITO: I've been a huge NBA fan since 2012, growing up a Knicks fan during the Melo era. Basketball has always connected people in my life—whether through playing or gaming—and I knew I wanted to work somewhere that made a real impact. I cold applied for this role, prepped hard through each interview round, and was fortunate to land it. It's been incredibly rewarding so far.

RACHEL SUTTLE: Two summers ago, I interned with the Lakers through the NBA HBCU Fellowship, rotating across departments like partnerships, finance, and media relations. That experience confirmed my passion for working in sports and sparked my interest in the business side. Last summer, I worked in finance at Nike, but I knew I wanted to return to sports this year. I was curious about how the NBA operates at a league-wide level—thinking beyond a single market to all 30 teams and the league’s global impact. I was referred to this opportunity, applied, and am now working in partnerships. I’ve gotten a chance to see how many different paths exist within the business of sports from merchandising and marketing to media partnerships. It’s been an incredible learning experience and a chance to keep exploring the many ways sports and business intersect.



**Rachel Suttle,
HBCU Fellow and
International
Merchandising &
Attractions Intern,
Howard University**

What has been a memorable moment or project during your internship so far?

BRENT: Draft night, I got to work with the international programming team. My biggest takeaway was the 58th pick. He didn't speak a single word in English, he's Italian, had the biggest smile, bigger smile than Cooper Flagg, bigger smile than anyone else despite being the 58th pick. So, to see these lives change overnight and to be a part of a very small part of the journey, and to be present that night, was probably the most memorable experience.

EMMA: One of the most compelling projects I contributed to involved exploring strategic partnership models with major streaming platforms to unlock new avenues for content distribution. This initiative was borne from emerging trends highlighted by Nielsen and other data sources, which underscored the growing dominance of streaming in shaping audience engagement and content consumption patterns.

Favorite NBA moment?

RACHEL: I was blessed to be able to do an internship over All-Star Weekend in San Francisco and I was on the social content team for the NBA. There were a lot of highlights that trip for sure, but I think my favorite was when I got to take a picture with Steph Curry after he got MVP of the All-Star Game.

MICHAEL: My favorite moment as a fan and just love of the game was probably this past year when the Knicks beat the Celtics in the playoffs. Game one and game two were crazy. I was watching it at my friend's apartment, and they went down by like 20 at half. I sat down and watched the second half, and I just lost my voice. So that was probably some of the best moments. As a fan, those games are definitely up there as most memorable.

About Our Interns and Fellows

BRENT: I have a Luke Kennard LA Clippers jersey that's real. I don't think anyone else does other than

EMMA: As of July, I've read 75 books this year.

MICHAEL: Back home in Jersey, I live on a 105-acre farm.

RACHEL: I have been skydiving.

Luke Kennard
himself.

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