

## Career Roadmap for MEMS Master's Students

	Job Path	PhD Path
<b>Prearrival</b>	<b>Develop a career strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with welcome emails and orientation</li> <li>Start a habit of asking people how they selected their professional path and what surprises and satisfies them about it</li> <li>Begin a master list of organizations who you're curious about interning or working for</li> <li>Continually re-evaluate your career strategy throughout your degree</li> </ul>	<b>Develop a career strategy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with welcome emails and orientation</li> <li>Identify a MS research direction and start looking for an MS research adviser</li> <li>Create a target list of universities/specialties for PhD application submission</li> <li>Continually re-evaluate your career strategy throughout your degree</li> </ul>
<b>Y1 Fall</b>	<b>Begin searching for an internship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build a professional network with job opportunities and career connections</li> <li>Utilize one-on-one career coaching from the start, whether exploring options or actively applying</li> <li>Attend career events- information sessions, career fairs, and networking opportunities</li> <li>Create and submit resumes showing your alignment for positions</li> <li>Research visa limitations, developing ability to communicate with employers about your employment authorization (F1)</li> </ul>	<b>Begin searching for an MS project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend info sessions on MS research and evaluate potential research projects</li> <li>Contact MEMS faculty member(s) for MS research advising</li> <li>Utilize one-on-one career coaching for feedback and advice</li> <li>Cultivate relationships with Duke faculty for potential recommendation letters</li> <li>Research visa limitations, developing understanding of your employment authorization (F1)</li> </ul>
<b>Y1 Spring</b>	<b>Continue searching for an internship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As an alternative to internship, you may find an applied research project at a Duke lab</li> </ul>	<b>Continue searching for an MS project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop your MS research project toward a conference paper and ideally a journal paper</li> </ul>
<b>Y1 Summer</b>	<b>Summer Internship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The summer internship will give you valuable experience, an enhanced network, a positive recommendation, or even a job offer</li> </ul>	<b>MS research project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MS project is important preparation for your PhD application. Aim for a conference or journal paper as a result of your work.</li> </ul>
<b>Y2 Fall</b>	<b>Search and interview for a Job</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue building a professional network with job opportunities and career connections</li> <li>Continue preparing for interviews with practice interviews and research</li> <li>Interview for jobs, clearly articulating your alignment with the position</li> <li>Apply to graduate, if applicable</li> <li>Apply for OPT, if applicable (F1)</li> </ul>	<b>PhD application</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate PhD positions at Duke and elsewhere, and reach out to potential PhD advisers</li> <li>Arrange for recommendation letters, ideally with some of them from Duke professors</li> <li>Prepare and submit PhD applications</li> <li>Apply to graduate, if applicable</li> <li>Apply for OPT, if applicable (F1)</li> </ul>
<b>Y2 Spring</b>	<b>Graduation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare for negotiation, closing your search, and deciding on job offers. Utilize career coaches, advisors, and mentors for strong support.</li> <li>Apply to graduate</li> <li>Apply for OPT (F1)</li> </ul>	<b>Graduation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide on graduate school option, utilizing advisors and mentors as needed</li> <li>Apply to graduate</li> <li>Apply for OPT (F1)</li> </ul>

### Notes

- This roadmap is meant to get you thinking on your career path. We recognize that each master's student has a unique path, and recommend you to contact Career Services and/or the Director of Master's Studies for one-on-one career coaching.
- Preparation toward a dual path is recommended** to ensure satisfactory employment beyond your master's degree, especially at the beginning of your master's studies.
- Items specific to international students are marked by F1.