

Internship Host Quick-Reference

Vitchakorn (Blue) Poonyakanok, Summer 2027 Internship

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Heinz College, M.S. Health Care Analytics & IT
(MSHCA)

Last updated: July 6, 2026

WHO I AM

Physician and clinical data analyst from Bangkok, Thailand, incoming M.S. student in Health Care Analytics and Information Technology at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College (starts August 2026). Background spans travel medicine, field epidemiology and outbreak investigation with Thailand's Ministry of Public Health, and applied health data analytics: clinical AI tools, public health dashboards, and disease-surveillance systems.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE & WHAT I CAN CONTRIBUTE

In an 8–12 week placement, I can contribute directly to analytics, dashboarding, or surveillance/evaluation work, for example:

- Built a disease-surveillance dashboard and LLM-based query assistant for Thailand's national disease-control agency, using tool-calling over aggregate, privacy-safe data.
- Designed a Tableau dashboard for yellow fever and malaria travel-prevention guidance, built on CDC Yellow Book data.
- Evaluated a national digital disease-surveillance system's sensitivity, timeliness, and representativeness, and recommended improvements.

INTERNSHIP WINDOW

Eligible window **May 11 – Aug 20, 2027**

Minimum hours **300 hours**

Duration needed **8–12 wks, full-time**

Location **Anywhere in the U.S.**

Compensation **Paid or unpaid OK**

ELIGIBLE HOST TYPES

- Public agency
- Non-profit organization
- Private firm

Per Heinz College policy, the role must have **significant educational value in management and analysis**, not purely clerical work.

ACADEMIC OVERSIGHT

- Internship is verified and formally approved by CMU Heinz College Career Services before it counts toward my degree requirement.
- At the end of the term, my supervisor completes a brief (~10 minute) performance evaluation form; no ongoing reporting burden during the internship itself.
- No academic credit is issued for the internship; it is not a stipend-generating placement for the university, and there is no cost or contractual obligation to the host organization.

WORK AUTHORIZATION: WHAT HOSTING ACTUALLY REQUIRES

Status: J-1 Exchange Visitor, sponsored by Carnegie Mellon University

Authorization required: **Academic Training (AT)**, requested through CMU's Office of International Education. This is not CPT, not an H-1B, and not a petition the host files.

- AT must be approved before my start date. Processing typically takes a few weeks; I will file as soon as an offer is confirmed, well ahead of May 2027.
- **Host-side requirement is minimal:** a brief offer / role description letter for my AT application: no sponsorship fee, no immigration petition, no legal filing on the host's part.
- I am responsible for securing and completing my own authorization; this does not require action from the host beyond that one letter.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Is there a cost to host me?** No sponsorship fee, stipend, or contractual cost; compensation is optional (paid or unpaid).
- **Do you need to sponsor a visa?** No: CMU sponsors my J-1 status; hosting only requires one brief offer letter.
- **What if my degree plans change?** Heinz College Career Services approves the internship independently of the host.
- **Is remote work acceptable?** Yes, for U.S.-based remote/hybrid roles; I can also relocate for the window.

Vitchakorn (Blue) Poonyakanok

vpoonyak@andrew.cmu.edu

vitchakorn.com / CV / Resume