

**Statement on Funding of Journalism Internships**  
**J-Schools Canada/Écoles-J**  
**October 25, 2022**

J-Schools Canada/Écoles-J believes paid journalism internships are crucial to student success. The JSC-ÉJC board is committed to working with journalism programs, media organizations, policy-makers, and students with the goal of ensuring paid placements across Canada. Based on a JSC/ÉJC internal survey of member institutions, 60 per cent responded that internships should be compensated, while 40 per cent responded, “maybe.”

The JSC-ÉJC board encourages employers, policy-makers, and journalism schools to recognize and address the inequities that exist in the current internship landscape. While we recognize the challenges associated with developing permanent solutions and the difficulties of arriving at a one-size-fits-all solution, we also acknowledge the need for action. We encourage major employers to lead the way in offering payment to interns. We also encourage policy-makers to examine and curb exploitative practices. The JSC-ÉJC also commits to helping journalism schools and individual students lobby employers for remuneration. The JSC-ÉJC position is supported by a consultative and evidence-based process that began in 2020 with the creation of a working group that surveyed member journalism programs and media employers to gather their practices and views on internships. A separate project surveyed journalism students. Those results show that while student expectations for payment can be higher than those of their educators and prospective employers, all groups want to help students succeed in the field.

J-Schools Canada/Écoles-J has engaged in a number of activities meant to address the issues of unpaid and underpaid<sup>1</sup> student work experience.

- We are facilitating financial support to member programs with the launch of the [Emerging Journalists Bursary Program](#). The initiative, in conjunction with The Canadian Journalism Foundation and Meta Journalism Project, offers member institutions funding (approx. \$8K each) to support career development opportunities for students in 2022-23.
- We hosted a national workshop in Fall 2022, with the goal of mapping best practices by employers, schools, and students.
  - We have established a database of potential internship employers
  - We are working with journalism researchers dedicated to better understanding the student internship landscape with the goal of finding solutions.<sup>2</sup>

We are wholly dedicated to disrupting current practices that often see only students with the greatest financial resources pursuing unpaid or underpaid opportunities. The disparity impacts students with the least resources, including students who are Black, Indigenous, and people of colour. We worry the same students forced to bypass unpaid/underpaid opportunities will see their post-graduation prospects blunted, reinforcing the lack of diversity of journalists in the field. This statement was developed by the [Board of Directors of J-Schools Canada/Écoles-J](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Underpaid defined as anything below minimum wage

<sup>2</sup> The journalism internship working group report is available [here](#).