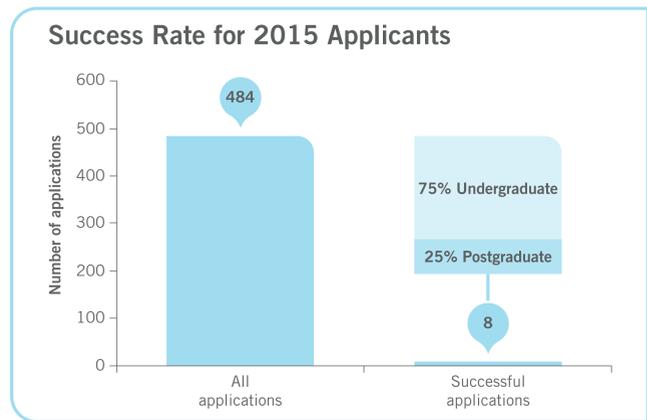
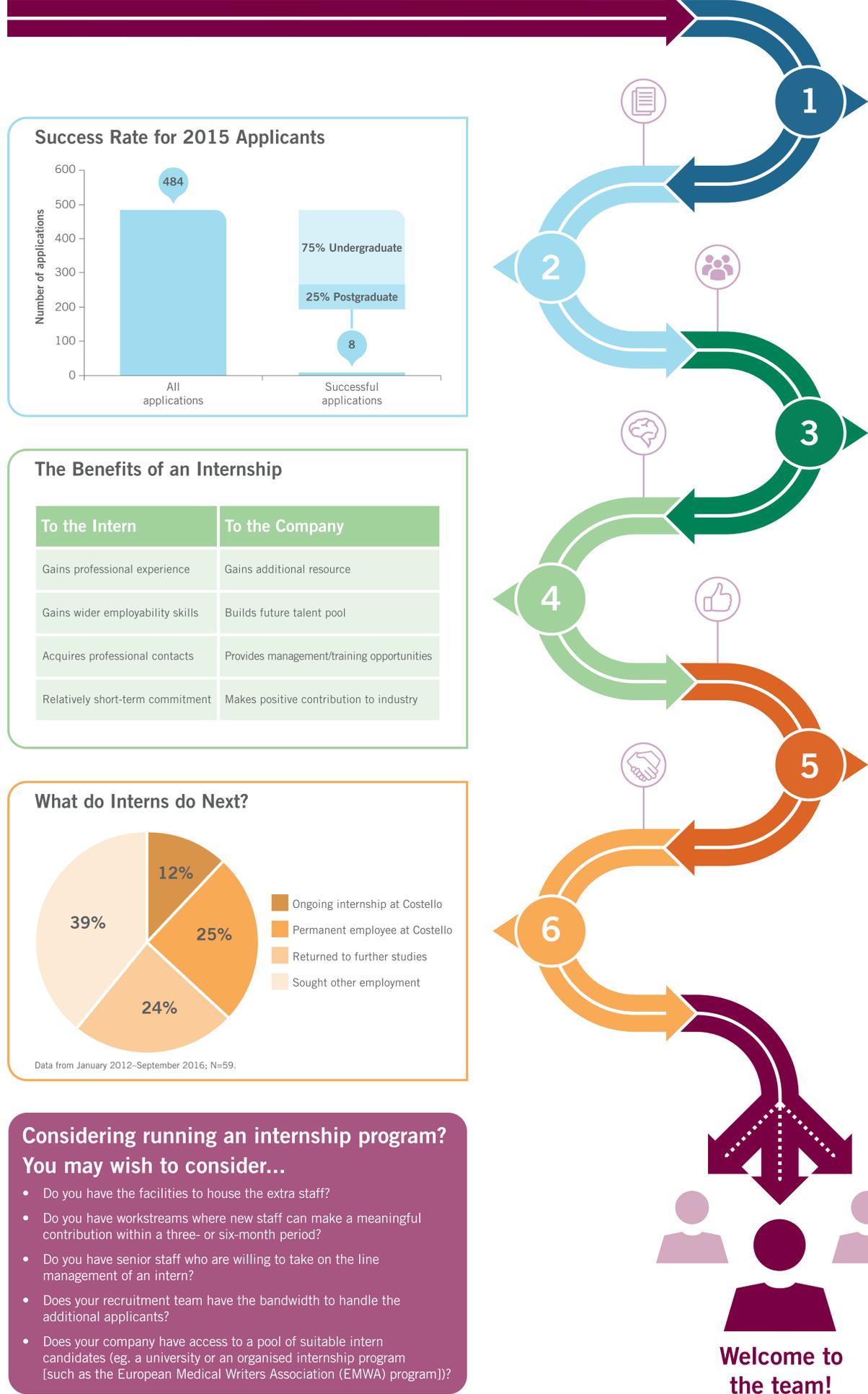


The Role of Scientific Interns as Medical Publication Professionals

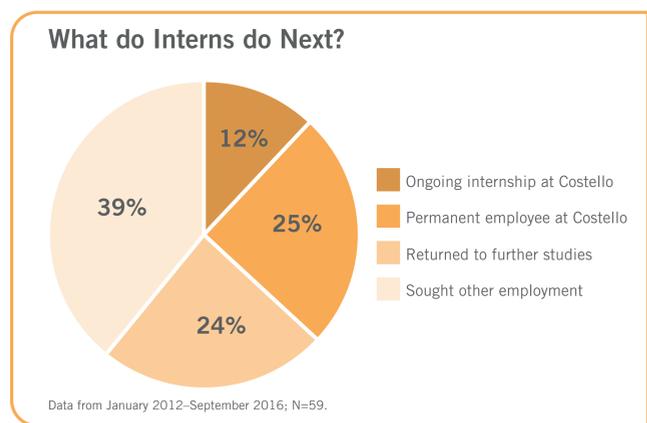
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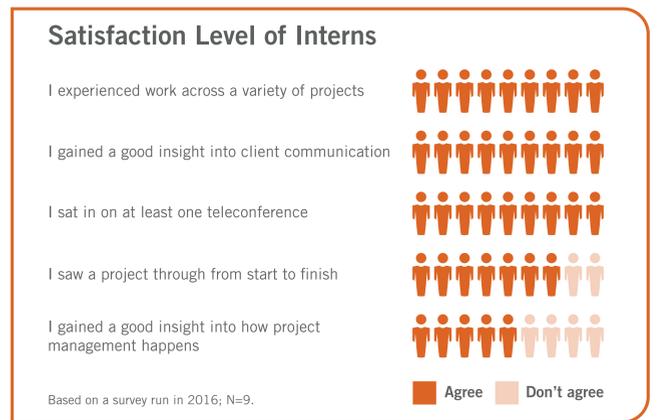
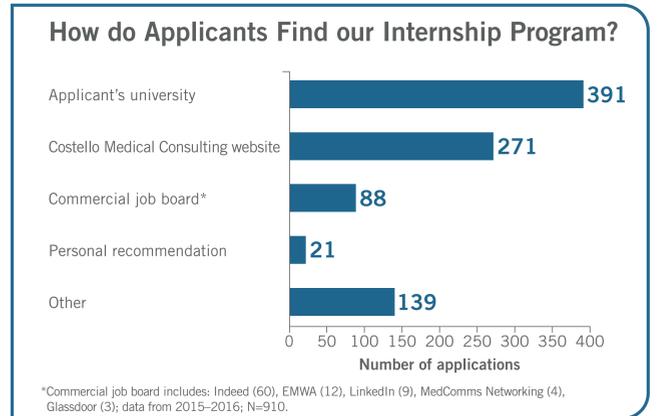


The Benefits of an Internship

To the Intern	To the Company
Gains professional experience	Gains additional resource
Gains wider employability skills	Builds future talent pool
Acquires professional contacts	Provides management/training opportunities
Relatively short-term commitment	Makes positive contribution to industry



- ### Considering running an internship program? You may wish to consider...
- Do you have the facilities to house the extra staff?
 - Do you have workstreams where new staff can make a meaningful contribution within a three- or six-month period?
 - Do you have senior staff who are willing to take on the line management of an intern?
 - Does your recruitment team have the bandwidth to handle the additional applicants?
 - Does your company have access to a pool of suitable intern candidates (eg. a university or an organised internship program [such as the European Medical Writers Association (EMWA) program])?



What we have learnt about internships

- Many jobs in the medical communications industry require formal medical writing experience, which can be frustrating for those trying to embark on a career in this field.
- Scientific internships can offer a vital first step into a career in medical publications, providing experience and insight to interns.
- Internships can also provide a huge benefit to companies, especially as interns may choose to remain a part of the company.
- A successful advertising campaign can lead to a large number of applicants, which can place a burden on the company's recruitment processes, but which can also allow the company to be judicious in selecting only the very best applicants.

Abstract

Objectives

- Scientific internships can provide the first step to becoming a medical publication professional, and can play a vital role in supporting the development of medical publications.¹ We sought to understand the attributes of a successful scientific internship at a medical communications agency, and to provide evidence-based recommendations to agencies considering an internship program.

Research Design and Methods

- Data were collected from applications made to our company's paid internship program since its inception (1-Jul-2012) until the present (1-Oct-2016).

Results

- Since the program's inception, 58 interns were hired. Of these, 12% are ongoing in the internship program, 24% continued onto permanent roles within the company, 24% returned to further studies, and 40% sought other employment. In 2015, 484 applications were made for the scientific internship role, of whom 8 (1.7%) were successful. Whilst some successful applicants were postgraduates (25%), the majority (75%) held an undergraduate qualification, therefore interns were given a thorough induction and training program, as well as close line management and regular appraisals. According to a 2016 survey, 9/9 interns felt the program provided a good understanding of the variety of work within medical communications, with 78% working on a project from inception to completion.

Conclusions

- Scientific internships can be a vital entry route into a career in medical publishing. Interns can also provide valuable support to medical communications agencies and hence can play a key role in the development of medical publications.

References

1. Nixon D and Pearson S. Successful internships: a company perspective. Medical Writing 2016;25(3):68–72.