



# Private Club Careers: Your Questions Answered

A guide for aspiring professionals

## Is a Career in Hospitality and Private Clubs Right for Me?

This is a great question to ask yourself early on! A career in hospitality—specifically within private clubs—is ideal for individuals who are passionate about providing exceptional service, enjoy building relationships, and thrive in a fast-paced environment.

### Consider these points:

- **Do you enjoy interacting with people?**  
Private clubs are all about creating a sense of community and personalized experiences.
- **Are you detail-oriented?**  
Maintaining high standards of service and presentation is crucial.
- **Are you a team player?**  
Clubs require collaboration across various departments.
- **Do you have a strong work ethic?**  
The hospitality industry can demand long hours, especially during peak seasons.
- **Are you adaptable and resourceful?**  
You'll need to think on your feet and solve problems creatively.

If you answered yes to most of these, a career in the private club industry could be a rewarding fit. It offers opportunities for growth, diverse roles, and the chance to make a real difference in members' lives.

## How can I gain experience in the private club industry if I'm not able to secure an internship right away?

If you can't secure a private club internship immediately, gaining experience in service-based roles is a great option. Consider working in customer-focused positions like a server, bartender, or

concierge in restaurants or hotels. These roles help you develop valuable skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, all of which are essential in the private club industry. Volunteering at tournament events can also provide useful experience and make you a more competitive candidate when an internship opportunity comes up.

## **What should I do if I can't find an internship in my specific area of interest?**

If you're unable to find an internship in your specific interest, consider applying for a rotational internship. This type of program allows you to explore different areas within the organization.

During the interview, be sure to express your specific area of interest to the hiring manager. Ask if there's flexibility to tailor the internship experience toward that area. For example, if you're interested in becoming an Events & Catering Director, you could inquire if the club has such a position and if you could spend time with that manager to learn more about their role. This shows initiative and a willingness to learn while helping you gain the experience you're seeking.

## **How do I network with professionals in the private club industry?**

Start by attending career fairs to meet club managers and industry leaders. Joining CMAA provides access to networking events, a professional community, and industry conferences and workshops to help you expand your connections.

Be proactive—introduce yourself, ask insightful questions, and follow up with a thank-you note or LinkedIn message to build lasting relationships.

## **How do I know if a specific club is the right fit for me?**

Do your research! While some clubs remain exclusive, many have social media profiles where you can explore their events and get a sense of their culture. Take time to review their posts and learn about the community they've built.

If possible, visit the club in person—whether during an interview, a tour, or a networking event. Observing the environment firsthand can give you valuable insight into the culture, team dynamics, and overall atmosphere.

Additionally, reach out to your professors or industry connections for insights. And during your interview, don't hesitate to ask questions such as:

- How would you describe the team culture?
- How are interns integrated into operations?
- What are the club's core values?

All of this helps you determine if the club aligns with your values, interests, and professional goals.

## Next Steps

Now that you have these insights, start exploring opportunities! Research internship opportunities, attend industry events, and network with professionals. The private club industry offers a rewarding career path for dedicated and passionate individuals. Good luck!