

## 2021 Goldman Sachs Intern Survey

Each year, our summer analysts and associates bring a fresh perspective to the firm, and we are keen to know how they view the world. We asked them to share their thoughts on everything from the impact of the pandemic to their views on cryptocurrency, how they use social media and whether they prefer milk that comes from a plant or an animal.

This year, 1.8k interns shared their perspectives, representing all of the regions in which the firm operates.

### Class of 2021 By the Numbers

585 schools represented  
85 languages spoken  
53% women  
5% LGBTQ+

#### Americas:

25% Asian  
19% Hispanic/Latinx  
17% Black

#### UK:

25% Black

### Investing & Spending

While stocks are the most popular investment (59%), followed by exchange traded funds (27%) and cryptocurrencies (21%), 40% of our interns are not yet invested.

Their Views on Crypto: 34% believe cryptocurrency should be considered an asset class. 52% say they need to learn more before making a call.

#### How They Pay:

32% credit cards  
31% debit cards  
30% app on their phones  
7% cash

Why and Where They Spend: When they spend, their decision is primarily driven by:

1. Recommendations from friends and family: 83%
2. Online ratings and reviews: 83%
3. The brand's values: 63%
4. Influencers: 15%

Our interns prefer to shop in person (when possible) instead of online: 66% in person vs. 34% online

### Pandemic Perspectives

Interns say that the pandemic has had/continues to have the most significant impact on their:

Mental health: 63%  
Relationships: 53%  
Physical health: 47%  
Studies: 46%

In 2020, 75% said they believe that remote work and school will have a negative impact on their ability to foster relationships.

Because of the pandemic: 64% feel safe doing the same activities as they did before, with the proper measures (e.g., masks, vaccinations) in place. 36% are wary of going to places with big crowds such as concerts or sporting events

77% say that wearing masks will become more common globally as a method for preventing the spread of diseases such as the common cold

### **Future State**

As of August, 59% predicted classes would be held in person, while 33% thought their college or university would take a hybrid approach. 8% expected to be fully remote.

Looking ahead, 45% predict climate change will have the most pronounced global impact over the next 10 years. Other top responses included:

Artificial intelligence: 18%

Pandemic: 10%

Resource scarcity: 10%

Widening wealth gap: 9%

Geopolitical tensions: 8%

From a range of items once considered essential for modern life, our interns chose that the following are most likely to be obsolete in the next 10 years:

Business cards: 64%

Parking meters: 48%

ATMs: 40%

Cars with human drivers: 29%

Movie theaters: 29%

Printers: 27%

### **It's My Life**

First thing in the morning, our interns:

Snooze their alarms: 30%

Check the headlines: 17%

Scroll on social media: 15%

Exercise: 12%

Eat breakfast: 12%

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Year after year, our interns see their lives taking a familiar course ...

88% expect to get married/establish a formal relationship

83% expect to become a homeowner

60% expect to become pet parents

Although of this year's class, 57% expect to become a parent, down from 92% of our interns who were asked the same question in 2019.

### **Informed & Engaged**

Information

When our interns want the truth, most turn to\*:

Digital news outlets, including news websites and apps: 76%

Family and friends: 56%

Traditional news outlets such as cable TV news shows and print media: 35%

Social media and online forums: 28%

*\*respondents could choose multiple answers*

## Digital diaries

On a typical day, the majority of our interns (48%) use 3 to 5 apps on their phones, while 33% use 5 to 10 apps on a daily basis, only 6% use 10+ apps

Instagram is the most popular app for POSTING content (63%) and VIEWING content (43%)

Snapchat was second-most popular app for POSTING content (9%), while YouTube came in second for VIEWING content (19%)

Despite the hype, less than 1% say they POST content on TikTok.

Their primary reason for using social media?

Keeping up with family and friends: 50%

After that, memes are the main attraction: 26%

Reading breaking news: 11%

Following influencers: 5%

Don't use social media: 4%

## Unfiltered

The majority (62%) of our interns say "not on my grid" when it comes to photo and video filters on social media.

66% said that they believe a monthly data protection service will become a must.

## Work and Life

Thinking about their next jobs, our interns prioritize:

Nature of their day-to-day work: 99%

Advancement: 99%

Who their colleagues will be: 99%

Compensation: 98%

Employer shares their values: 96%

While at work, our interns prefer connecting with colleagues via enterprise Instant Message tools (48%), rather than taking on the phone (15%), e-mail (15%) and video conferencing (14%).

Our interns plan to retire at different points in their lives:

Less than 35: 1%

34-45: 7%

45-55: 19%

55-65: 29%

65: 11%

Plan to work as long as I can: 34%

## Secrets to Success

To prepare the next generation, our interns would add the following as a required course:

Coding: 40%

How to save for retirement: 24%

Meditation: 19%

To get ahead, EQ (76%) is more important than IQ (24%)

## After Hours

For dinner tonight, 36% expect to cook from scratch tonight, 32% are eating takeout and 18% eat whatever is in the fridge.

While some of our interns (24%) love reboots of old TV shows and movies, the vast majority skip them and prefer the originals.

While the galaxies beyond may seem like the next frontier, most of our interns (85%) would still prefer to travel around the world than go to space (15%).

### **This or That**

(85%) Book vs. e-Reader (15%)

(66%) Iced beverage vs. hot beverage (34%)

(72%) City vs. Suburb (28%)

(54%) Animal milk vs. plant milk (36%)

(57%) Board games vs. video games (43%)