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Internships. Some of you may have one later this year or next summer, or maybe you`ve heard about an older friend in college getting this kind of real, on-the-job work experience. What you might not know is that not all interns get paid. One recently resorted to crowd sourcing, asking for help online to pay her bills. Erin McPike looks into whether interns should get an income.

ERIN MCPIKE, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Calling all benefactors. Would you spare a nickel to pay for this UNLV student`s living expenses while she interns for Harry Reid in Washington this fall? Jessica Patrone (ph) went online to beg for help in paying for food and shelter while she toils away with no pay. Otherwise, she says she will miss out on this once-in-a- lifetime chance to take advantage of this crucial career move without loans.

Ironic, because plenty of lawmakers here are constantly fighting to raise the federal minimum wage, but in their own offices, they are not even paying some of their hardest workers.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Only Congress, among anybody in the federal government, only Congress is allowed to use unpaid interns, because they have explicitly written an exemption for themselves into the law.

MCPIKE: And it`s not just Washington looking for free labor. Lots of those glamorous Hollywood internships don`t pay either. Eric Flatt (ph) worked for free on the blockbuster hit "Black Swan," but he later sued, complaining it was unfair to pay him nothing. He warns that only rich kids can score prestigious internships. But the Employment Policies Institute`s Michael Saltsman warns mandating internships be paid could rob everyone of the experience.

MICHAEL SALTSMAN, EMPLOYMENT POLICIES INST.: I think it`s crucial that we maintain a situation where interns don`t have to be paid. I think if we do have a situation like that, you have employers who may decide it`s not worth the hassle.

MCPIKE: And these jobs are not all full of copies, coffee and mail rooms. One intern asked a question at the White House briefing, and several reached fame for sprinting right out of the Supreme Court with copies of crucial rulings. But even if it`s not that quite that glamorous, there is pressure just to get one.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: All I hear from the career center at school is, internships are almost a necessary thing now. It`s not - your resume needs to have internships on it when you graduate, or you`re way, way behind.

1. Do you believe interns should be paid? Why or why not?
2. Do you believe paying interns would cut down on the number of internships available?
3. Name three values of internships.
4. Would you take an unpaid internship? Why or why not?