

Academic Internships Abroad

I. Introduction

Internships are another way to gain valuable experience abroad and receive academic credit. Internships abroad can range from 2 weeks to 1 year, and take place in the summer, semester or for a full year all over the world. Many study abroad providers now build internships into their programs, allowing students to gain work experience in their field while studying abroad. Full-time internships abroad can also be arranged through specific WSU departments or through an accredited provider or institution.

Typically, internships abroad are non-paid, although a few organizations do offer paid internships. Advantages of academic internships abroad include credit towards your degree, potential availability of financial aid, and a wide variety of locations and subjects offered. In addition, the work experience you gain will set you apart from your peers who took the same classes, earned the same degree and have similar work experience in the US. Disadvantages may include cost and sometimes unpredictability of placement.

I. The Basics

Getting credit for your internship

The critical issue when planning your internship is receiving credit. Going through your major or minor department is the easiest way to guarantee you will receive academic credit for your internship. Find out who could be your faculty of record, and the number of hours and credits you will need to fulfill to meet the requirements for an academic internship. It is important to note that by registering for an internship through WSU, you will have to pay tuition for your semester abroad, in addition to any fees you may incur, such as airfare, or fees to an organization or company who arranges your internship.

Many organizations offer to arrange internships or volunteer experiences and vary in their ability to provide support and guidance during the duration of the internship. While many organizations are viable channels for arranging an internship, they may not be able to issue a transcript for your experience. In this case, you would need to go through WSU with a designated faculty of record who would be responsible for evaluating your internship and granting credit.

In contrast, many study abroad programs arrange internships and are accredited (able to provide a transcript to ensure credit). You do not pay WSU tuition, just the program fee to the provider. It is important to check with the Education Abroad Office that the program or university you go through is indeed accredited before you apply.

Requirements

Requirements vary with different programs and organizations. WSU requirements include:

- Fill out the Education Abroad Internship Application and ISIC card form.
- 2.5 GPA (some programs may have higher requirements)

- Typically, no previous foreign language study is required, but it depends on the country and nature of the internship.
- A strong academic background in the internship field.

Costs

- Education Abroad Application Fee: \$150/semester, \$75/Summer
- Program Provider Fee: Paid directly to the internship program sponsor, this fee typically includes internship arrangements, housing and administrative costs. Some programs may also include transportation to/from the internship site, excursions, language classes and food in their price. Please consult the providers' brochure or website for more information.
- Expenses typically not included: airfare, visa and passport fees, public transportation.

II. How to find an internship

There are many ways of finding an academic internship abroad. Below are a few suggestions for starting your search.

- Check with advisors in the Education Abroad office for suggestions and up-to-date opportunities they may know of
- Ask Washington State University professors and your major or minor academic advisors for contact information of colleagues, businesses, or organizations abroad whom they may know of
- Search online newspapers for job/internship listings. Try the following search engines: www.internabroad.com or www.teachabroad.com
- Use professional associations (ex. American Nursing Association)
- Inquire with US companies about positions in overseas offices
- Inquire with Career Services about their internship program and to see their listings. <http://www.careers.wsu.edu/content/jobsinternships/internlistings.asp>

III. Types of Internships

a. Study Abroad Programs with Academic Internship Options

- Gain professional experience while taking courses through a study program
- Internships earn academic credit
- Eligible for financial aid
- Some countries have language proficiency requirements

American Institute for Foreign Study <http://www.aifs.com>

- Unpaid internships are combined with coursework in England, France, Italy, and Japan.
- Placements are available in business administration and management, as well as other areas. Language requirements vary by country.

API <http://www.academicintl.com>

- As a component of an academic program, API offers semester & academic year internships as well as summer options in France, Ireland, Spain, the UK and Mexico.
- Internship areas include international business, communications and more.

Arcadia <http://arcadia.edu/cea/>

- Academic internships as a part of the study abroad experience.
- Services include pre-departure consultation and assistance with placement and academic internship progress throughout the term.
- Opportunities in a variety of fields in Australia, England Ireland and Scotland.

AustraLearn Internship Program <http://www.australearn.org>

- AustraLearn offers professional development internships and custom designed internships in Australia.
- AustraLearn facilitates students into these internships and can combine the programs with other AustraLearn programs.
- Internships are between six weeks and one year in duration.

Center for Cross-Cultural Study <http://www.studyinspain.org/>

- Internships available in Seville, Spain
- Note language requirements

CIMAS <http://www.cimas.edu.ec/>

- Washington State schools' study abroad and internship program in Quito, Ecuador
- Internships available in Health, Development, Women and Human Rights

CIEE <http://ciee.org>

- Internships integrated into study abroad programs in a number of fields
- Programs available in Australia, Belgium, Chile, China, Ireland, Jordan and Spain

IFSA Butler www.ifsa-butler.org

- Internships combined with coursework in Australia, England, the Republic of Ireland, and Scotland.
- Opportunities include a wide range of majors and carry academic credit. Summer programs do not include internships.

IES: Institute for the International Education of Students <http://www.IESabroad.org>

- IES offers internships as an integral part of their study abroad programs, in Argentina, Australia, Austria, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan China and Spain.
- Language requirements differ for each site.
- Internships are available in business administration, management, marketing, as well as liberal arts areas.

Knowledge Exchange Institute <http://www.keiabroad.org>

- KEI offers internships integrated with study abroad and internships only.
- Sites include Australia, Belgium, China, France, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand and on multinational programs.

Lexia International <http://www.lexiaintl.org>

- Lexia offers internships as a supplement to their academic programs in Argentina, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, South Africa, and Thailand.
- Internships are unpaid and there is no language requirement.
- Internships are available in business administration, management, marketing, hospitality and sports administration, tourism, and hotel/restaurant/hospitality.

SUNY Brockport <http://www.brockport.edu/studyabroad>

- SUNY Brockport offers unpaid internships in conjunction with study abroad programs in Australia, Belize, Costa Rica, United Kingdom, Germany, Mexico, and Russia
- Language requirements vary depending on the site
- Internships are available in accounting, business administration, management, marketing, hotel/restaurant/hospitality, tourism, as well as liberal arts

USAC <http://usac.unr.edu>

- USAC offers internships for credit to qualifying students on many of their programs all over the world
- Some locations include Australia, Italy, China, Ireland, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, Czech Republic and Germany

b. Internship Placement Organizations

- Focus your efforts on working in your field of study with the support of a program provider
- Organizations may not provide academic credit (can seek credit through WSU department)
- May or may not be eligible for financial aid (only if done for credit)

CDS International <http://www.cdsintl.org/>

- Internships and fellowships in Germany, Argentina and Spain
- Placements in architecture, business, computer science, economics, engineering, global studies, graphic design, journalism, mass communications, law, political science, and more
- Some language skills are necessary. Summer or 9- to 18-month placements

Cross-Cultural Solutions <http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org/>

- Community projects in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Peru, Russia, Tanzania, and Thailand
- Placements in education, health care, or social services
- Two to 12 weeks

IAESTE <http://www.iaeste.org>

- Paid internships in more than 80 countries around the world (varies each year)
- Placements in engineering, computer science, mathematics, natural and physical sciences, architecture, or agricultural science
- Most positions are 8 to 12 weeks in the summer; fall and long-term internships are also available

International Cooperative Education <http://www.icemenlo.com/>

- Paid and unpaid internships in several countries in Asia, Australia, Europe, South America
- Placements with leading companies in anthropology, business, computer science, engineering, finance, and information technology
- Typically two to three months during the summer

Passage www.passageproject.org

- Customized internship and apprenticeship placements India, Tibet, Nepal.
- Explore areas such as yoga, ayurvedic medicine, traditional chinese medicine, tibetan medicine, traditional dance, metalworking, art history and architecture, ecology and preservation, geology, disadvantaged youth and development.

Pro-World www.myproworld.org

- Get involved in ongoing community development projects in Mexico, Peru or Belize.
- NGO Internships, development field placements and projects involving health care, education, environment, micro business, appropriate technology, women's rights, construction, journalism and fine arts.
- Two to twenty-six week placements

World Endeavors <http://www.worldendeavors.com/>

- Brazil, Ecuador, Italy, Spain, Thailand, Nepal

- Placements in architecture/city planning, art, business, culinary arts, environmental studies, fashion, finance, graphic design, health care, information technology, journalism, marketing, social work, and many other fields
- Two to six months

c. Service Learning Options

Child Family Health International <http://www.cfhi.org/>

- Bolivia, Ecuador, India, Mexico, South Africa
- Gain a global perspective on health issues by joining health professionals in clinical rotations
- Excellent opportunity for pre-health science, psychology, nursing, public health, dental, and medical students
- Four or eight weeks

The International Partnership for Service Learning www.ipsl.org (worldwide)

- IPSL programs unite academic study for credit and volunteer service.
- IPSL offers programs in the Czech Republic, Ecuador (Guayaquil & Quito), England, France, India, Israel, Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Scotland, Thailand, South Africa and South Dakota (on a Native American Reservation)

d. Independently Arranged Internships Abroad

- Great option if you know of a particular business or organization you would like to work with and have your own contacts
- Usually less structure and support than other options
- May or may not be for academic credit (can arrange for credit through own department)
- May or may not be eligible for financial aid (only if done for credit)

If you are unable to find an organization that can place you in your desired field or country, you may want to consider arranging an internship directly with a business or organization. This often requires more research and motivation but also has the benefit of offering you an internship that more closely meets your needs.

If you are looking for short-term paid work opportunities abroad, or any non-academic work or internship experiences abroad, please refer to the following sources:

<http://www.careers.wsu.edu>

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com/listings/work/>

<http://www.BUNAC.org>