

INTERNSHIPS ABROAD

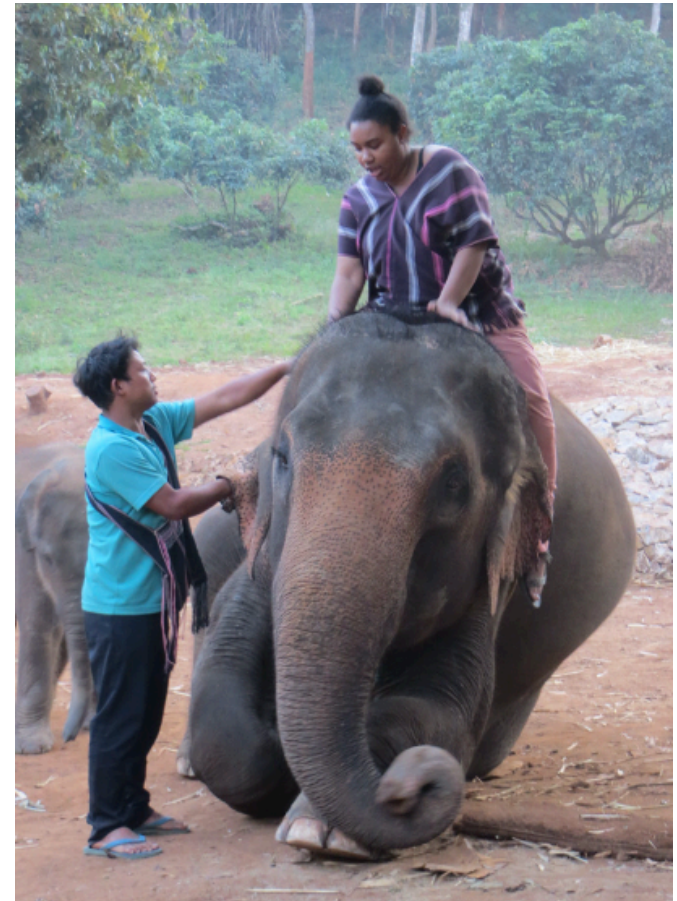
How the Learning Abroad Center supports and prepares students for an internship abroad.

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Why Internships Abroad?

- Integrates career readiness and academic learning
- Practical engagement
- Understand daily work life in a comparative setting
- Gain professional skills
- Complement classroom learning
- Deepen cross-cultural understanding
- Reflective learning through accompanying course



Internship Structure

- Internship as the “textbook”
- Variety of placements to match student interests
- Duties vary based on site and student skills
- Credit-bearing, unpaid
- Often the highlight of a student’s experience abroad
- Available for all majors



Internship Location & Types

- **MSID** (Ecuador, Kenya, Senegal, Thailand): 6 weeks intensive during the semester (internship or research required)
- **Study and Intern** programs (Florence, London, Madrid, Panama, Rome, Sydney, Toledo): integrated into the semester/summer course load (semester optional/required summer)
- Other semester options (Dublin, Montpellier, Morocco): a course option
- **University Study** and Affiliate partner programs (optional varies)



Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID)

- Arts, education, entrepreneurship, environment, public health, social services
- Urban and rural placements
- Unique learning with broader duties
- Reporter with local newspaper, assisting with youth center, assisting at homeopathic care facility, working with women's farm cooperative, teaching English in local orphanage
- 20-25 hours per week



MSID: Career Implications

- Peace Corps
- Director of local orphanage
- PhD in epidemiology and in-country service
- Director of youth education
- World Bank grant



Study & Intern Programs

- Coursework infused with internships throughout the term abroad
- Internship course supplements hands-on placement and allows for reflection
- In English or the local language
- Typically 3-6 credits
- Locations:
 - Florence (semester)
 - London (semester & summer)
 - Madrid (semester & summer)
 - Panama (summer)
 - Rome (summer)
 - Sydney (semester & summer)
 - Toledo (semester & summer)



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Study & Intern Programs

- Variety of professional placements:
 - Art and Design
 - Business
 - Education
 - Environmental Studies
 - Event Planning
 - Food/Nutrition
 - Health
 - Marketing/Communication/Journalism/PR
 - Political Science and International Relations
 - Social Services
 - Tourism



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Montpellier

- Available in English or French
- Schools, radio station, bakery, university international office
- 3-credit accompanying *World of Work* course
- Typically 8-12 hours per week



Bocas del Toro, Panama

- 4-Credit Spanish 1001-1004
- Internship
 - 3-Credit Internship with accompanying course
 - 6-Credit Internship with accompanying course (no Spanish course)
- Education, wildlife conservation, sustainability, eco tourism, business, and more
- Typically 10-20 hours per week (credit amount depended)



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Professional Reflections

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What I Learned...

- Transferable & intercultural skills vs career specific skills
- Support & commitment of internship supervisors & on-site staff
- “Placement” process
- Connection of intercultural learning & career development
- Building of professional relationships (international networking)



Florence & Rome Site Visit 2015

Common Misperceptions and Perceived Barriers

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Outreach of Internships Abroad

- In-person Outreach
 - Tabling at events
 - Classroom presentations
- Digital Outreach
 - E-newsletters
 - Social media
 - Website
 - Student experience videos
- Print
 - View book
 - Brochures
 - Flyers

Common Misconceptions

- Must choose between either interning or study abroad
- Can't intern and take class simultaneously
- Must find their own placement
- Position will be paid
- Internships abroad are extremely competitive
- Positions/organizations available aren't relevant
- Only programs titled "Study & Intern" have internships

Internships Placements Abroad

Pre-departure & Overseas Process

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Pre-Departure: *Students*

Advising	Application Process	Pre-Departure Preparation
<p>Learning Abroad Center</p> <p>Program specific information sessions</p> <p>First Step Sessions</p> <p>Program Selection Advising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to major • Fulfillment of requirements • Discussion of appropriate requirements (hours, work etc.) 	<p>Required Internship Application Materials</p> <p>Program Application</p> <p>Internship Application</p> <p>Letter addressing career and personal goals</p> <p>Resume geared towards career and personal goals or interests</p>	<p>Learning Abroad Center</p> <p>Pre-Departure Handbook</p> <p>Pre-Departure Orientation</p>
<p>Program Partner/Staff Abroad</p> <p>Advice on Application letter and resume</p> <p>Encourage students to think about goals, personal and professional interests</p>		<p>Program Partner/Staff Abroad</p> <p>Information on proposed placement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress code • position description • Interview • Immigration requirements

Pre-Departure: *In-country Internship Team*

Program Internship staff-maintain relationships with sites, coordinate placements, assist/advise students while completing experience

Site Supervisor- Oversight of intern and direct line of contact from the internship site to program internship staff

- Application sent to in-country internships team for review
- Application is reviewed and if it meets criteria is processed and sent to an appropriate site to secure a student interview
- Team sends confirmation of interview, position description, contact sheet and other details approximately 14 days prior to program start

In Country: *Students*

- Required interview takes place to determine appropriate fit between intern and site
- If interview successful, student gets a contract learning agreement, additional details and timesheets for the term
- Learning agreement completed and returned to internship staff
- Student attends a specific internship orientation designed to manage expectations and prepare for the work experience
- 3 or 6 credit internship course throughout the course of the internship work component

Global Internship Course

London and Sydney

Heavy focus on the development of personal and professional skills

Networking

Communications

Remote Collaboration

Global Perspective

Cultural Awareness

Organization/Time Management

Problem solving

Adaptability

Goal Setting

Variety of teaching and learning activities and methods
(reflection, lecture, workshop, discussion, informal/formal presentations,
mock interviews)

Opportunity for students to discuss and compare experiences and
activities to gain insight into their roles within internship organization

Idea of moving from self-reflection to self-projection

6-credit course has a specialized focus developing an internship/
industry related research project

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Student Internship Abroad Profile

Student: Corissa Wurth

Program: Study and Intern in London, Summer 2017

Student Major: Psychology

Internship: Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development, Birkbeck Univ.



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Student Internship Abroad Profile

Student: Catlyn Christie

Program: MSID Thailand, Spring 2017

Major: Non Profit Management, Sustainability Studies minor

I spent 6 weeks interning full time at an agricultural village in rural Thailand, renowned for its organic farming practices. I spent my days doing a wide range of activities including cleaning and sorting seeds, harvesting veggies, planting banana trees, helping with educational programming, etc. Overall the greatest takeaway for me was learning about the farmers perspectives and philosophies on land stewardship, farming, development, and life in general.



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