INTERNISHIPS ABROAD

How the Learning Abroad Center supports and prepares students for an internship abroad.
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)
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
• 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)
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
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
## Pre-Departure: Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advising</th>
<th>Application Process</th>
<th>Pre-Departure Preparation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning Abroad Center</td>
<td>Required Internship Application Materials</td>
<td>Learning Abroad Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program specific information sessions</td>
<td>Program Application</td>
<td>Pre-Departure Handbook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Step Sessions</td>
<td>Internship Application</td>
<td>Pre-Departure Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Selection Advising</td>
<td>Letter addressing career and personal goals</td>
<td>Program Partner/Staff Abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Relevance to major</td>
<td>Resume geared towards career and personal goals or interests</td>
<td>Information on proposed placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Fulfillment of requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td>● Dress code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Discussion of appropriate requirements (hours, work etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>● position description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Partner/Staff Abroad</td>
<td></td>
<td>● Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice on Application letter and resume</td>
<td></td>
<td>● Immigration requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage students to think about goals, personal and professional interests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Comments? Questions?

facebook.com/LearningAbroadCenter
pinterest.com/umniac/boards
twitter.com/UMabroad
UMabroad.com
youtube.com/UMabroad230
UofM Learning Abroad Center International Educators Network

UMabroad.umn.edu
The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer. © 2015 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved. This presentation is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Learning Abroad Center communications team at 612.626.9000.

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER
University of Minnesota