Successful International Internships

Partnerships and Performance

Cynthia Banks, MS (Cert)
Founder/President Foundation for Global Scholars
(Founder, GlobaLinks Learning Abroad)
cynlbanks@gmail.com
International Internships – 3 parties

Home University
- Due Diligence on a provider
- Student selection and fit
- Preparation
- Academic credit

Internship Provider
- Overseas staff and offices
- Maintain workplace connection
- Preparation of all parties
- Health & Safety guarantees

On-Site Workplace and Provider Staff
- Location of suitable placement
- Onsite Living & Learning
- Orientation, social
- Check-in, supervise
Home University

On-Site Workplace and Support

Internship Provider
International placements are an investment to a student’s future

- Self Discovery
- Career Path clarification
- A Unique and Interesting Story
- Self-Confidence
- Expanded Global Network
The Basics

Duration
Make it Count
Preparation
Beyond the Workday
Language
Company
Credit
Duration

- Ideal Length = 8+ weeks
- Cost is the same for 4-52 weeks
- Success is based on WorkPlace Supervisor
- Expectations = GREAT or POOR

Success is based on WorkPlace Supervisor expectations, which can be GREAT or POOR.
Language Barriers

• English speaking is easiest in shorter duration

• Language barriers are both internal and external to companies – consider both

• Group conversation vs. individual

• Isolation and frustration

• Supplement with language classes – social+
"My intern has worked out wonderfully. You really should consider getting one."
Finding the Right Company

• What does it mean to “fit the academic major?”
• Local connection is key – face to face
• Medium size companies are best fit
• Where is accountability?
  – Obtain commitment of company leaders
  – Obtain commitment for 100% engaged supervisor for the duration
  – Obtain written job/project outline for the student
• Visit to see where student will work – safety and preparation
• Ensure the workplace will perform part of the academic credit reporting requirement
• Be willing to cancel site if signs point to disengagement
Preparation (both parties)

REVISED STUDY ABROAD ORIENTATIONS

What does it mean to “work”?

What type of work constitutes useful service?

Onsite meeting/orientation

Independence vs. isolation

Why does a company want from you beyond work?

For the workplace: internship students and American culture

Connections to career from the beginning

the first 2 weeks
Beyond the Workday

Pay attention to housing “comforts”
- Introduce students in the same city
- Access to key resources (market, pharmacy, doctor, laundry, church, gym, etc)

Language classes
- Local university and company activities
- Travel comes after, not during, the internship

Set goals for non-work time – report on progress
- Journal the experience to mine the riches
- Regular program check-in
Innovations

• Counsel toward **personal brand building**, not just resume writing. Incorporate social media training
• Teach students **how to network** (card exchange, thank you notes, touch base)
• Have students **apply and be interviewed** for their placement – video spots, cover letter & resume, Skype interview
• Upon return home, focus on **leveraging the experience to career** (work with Career Services office)
• **Foster workplace sites** as you do your university partnerships – do not use/abuse
• Be willing to **hold students accountable** onsite or you risk losing the workplace site
"My internship experience helped shape my character and open doors for my future career path. I gained insight into how business works in different cultures, which has given me confidence in my ability to work well with people from different backgrounds and life experiences."

- K. Arntz, Public Relations Intern with GlobaLinks Learning Abroad (website testimonial)

"The amount I have gained from this placement, in terms of technical skills and perspective towards the actual progression of scientific research, has been invaluable. This has been probably the most significant contributor to my education since I began my degree."

- L. Sherrard, University of Ottawa, Intern with GlobaLinks Learning Abroad (website testimonial)

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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