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
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)
INTERNSHIPS ABROAD

Professional Reflections

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University of Minnesota
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

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## Pre-Departure: *Students*

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**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  Global Perspective  Problem solving
Communications  Cultural Awareness  Adaptability
Remote Collaboration  Organization/Time Management  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
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.
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.