

Tips on getting an International Internship

As you can imagine, it is more difficult to find an internship abroad than it is in the United States. There are some things to consider as you decide whether or not you want to embark on this adventure.

1. Are you willing and/or able to put the time and effort into finding this opportunity and doing the necessary paperwork (visas, passports etc.) to make it happen?
 - You must plan well in advance if you are interested in an international internship. It will most likely take you longer to locate the experience and there will be additional things that you will need to do to prepare for the opportunity. Some of these tasks may include getting appropriate visas/work permits, arranging travel plans, getting a passport, receiving appropriate immunizations (if applicable), and numerous other tasks.
2. Are you going to receive academic credit for the opportunity? If yes, who will give you credit and evaluate the experience?
 - You will need to find a faculty member who is willing to supervise and evaluate this experience for you. Communication will need to be maintained throughout the semester via telephone, email, etc.
3. Do you speak another language?
 - If you do, great! You might want to consider working in the country whose language you speak. If you do not speak another language, you might be better off working in an English-speaking country like Australia or the United Kingdom.

Adapting your resume

Adapting your standard resume to the style of the country you are applying to could be beneficial. It shows that you know about the country's culture, that you have done some research, and are very interested in pursuing the opportunity for which you are applying. Every country has different information to be included on a resume. For example, in Germany, it is recommended that you include a picture, marital status, and number of children—information that would never be included on a resume in the United States. A great place to find resume writing and job search tips for other countries is www.goinglobal.com. For sample resumes and CV's for other countries, go to www.eurograduate.com and click on the career-planning icon. You will find additional sites listed at the end of this article.

Getting started

It is recommended that you start looking for your overseas opportunity about a year before the semester you plan to go. This will allow you time to research various programs and opportunities, apply, and eventually secure a position. You will still have enough time to complete appropriate paperwork, find a place to live, and make travel arrangements. Below are several suggestions on locating opportunities to get you started in your search.

- **Network with professors** and other people who might have contacts overseas. Many professors have done work overseas and/or have worked with visiting professors from other countries. Start with faculty members in your department and then expand to other departments if necessary. Remember, in order to start networking, it will be helpful to know what country you want to work in. Have copies of your resume on hand and have an idea of the type of work you would like to be doing.

- **Work in this country in an organization that has subsidiaries overseas.** You can use resources such as the *Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the US* to identify these organizations. If the working relationship is positive, you can then discuss the possibility of working at their overseas organization for a period of time.
- **If you plan to study abroad, consider doing an internship at the same time.** There are many advantages to this arrangement. You are already abroad and can utilize the University's career and academic resources to locate an opportunity. Furthermore, networking will be easier, and you will not need to be concerned about housing.
- **Utilize resources in the Career Development Library** in Career Services. Listed below are several resources that can be used to identify overseas opportunities and organizations.

900	International Internships
902	Directory of Foreign Firms Operating in the US
902	Directory of American Firms Operating in Foreign Countries
902	Work in Britain
902	International Affairs Directory of Organizations
902	Directory of Websites for International Jobs

- In addition to the Career Development Library, you might want to consider using the resources in the **Homer Babbidge Library** as well. The Library subscribes to numerous resources and on-line directories that can assist you in your search for businesses and organizations abroad. The business librarian located in the RIS department on Level 1 can assist you.
- **Web sites and online searches** are also helpful in identifying various programs. Feel free to check out some of the sites listed below in addition to conducting your own search.

Internships International, LLC

<http://rtpnet.org/~intintl/>

Studyabroad.com/internabroad

<http://www.studyabroad.com/exp.html>

Visions In Action

<http://www.visionsinaction.org/>

Idealist

<http://www.idealists.org/>

Council on International Educational Exchanges

<http://www.counciloninternational.org/>

Goabroad.com

<http://internabroad.com/>