



# How to Find & Fund an International Internship

**Jake Koelzer**, Program Manager & Advisor, International Center  
**Kelly Nelson**, Assistant Director, International Center



# AGENDA



- » Introductions
  - » U-M International Internship Opportunities
  - » Self-arranged vs. Placement Programs
  - » Funding opportunities
  - » Q & A
- 



# **U-M Global Internship Opportunities**

An Overview






# U-M Programs to Consider for Summer

- » [Center for Global & Intercultural Study](#) - deadline February 1, 2026
  - » [College of Engineering International Programs in Engineering](#)
    - ◇ [Experiencing Entrepreneurship in Scandinavia](#) (*open to all undergraduates!*) - final application deadline - February 5, 2026
  - » [International Institute](#)
    - ◇ [China Internship Initiative](#) - internships in China - deadline February 1, 2026
    - ◇ [WCEE Internship Initiative](#) - internships in Europe and Eurasia - passed for this year, though funding is still available for students who find their own internships!
    - ◇ [Japan Internship Initiative](#) - internships in Japan - deadline February 1, 2026
  - » [M-Compass](#)
- 



# GETTING CREDIT FOR YOUR INTERNSHIP

- » LSA Course - [ALA 225: Undergraduate Internship Course](#)
    - ◇ 1 credit; online
    - ◇ Minimum 6 weeks @ 25 hours/week
    - ◇ Must secure internship before enrolling
    - ◇ Must enroll before your internship begins
    - ◇ Must submit application by July 1
  
  - » You can also get credit by taking an Independent Study course
    - ◇ Talk to your academic advisor!
    - ◇ If you want the credit to count towards your major/minor, talk to your major/minor advisors.
- 



# Placement Programs vs. Self-Arranged Programs

The Two Main Methods of Arranging Internships  
& Service Opportunities Abroad



# WHAT IS A PLACEMENT PROGRAM?

- » A company that streamlines the process of providing you with an internship, for a fee.
  - » Apply -> Get Accepted -> Enroll and Pay fee -> Get matched with an internship abroad -> Interview with employer -> Go abroad
    - ◇ Example: [AIFS Internships Abroad](#)
  - » Some placement programs are better than others!  
Things to consider:
    - ◇ Cost, level of in-country support, dates, duration, housing, etc.
  - » Credit vs. Non-for-Credit Internship Programs
- 

# EXAMPLE PROGRAMS



IAESTE



creating opportunity. inspiring success



## Programs in Partnership with CGIS




omprakash



Boston University Study Abroad



# BENEFITS OF A PLACEMENT PROGRAM

- » **Health & Safety**
    - ◇ Safe housing options, safety tips, local insights, emergency contact
  - » **Orientation**
    - ◇ Pre-departure and/or in-country
  - » **In-country Resources**
    - ◇ Help in case the host NGO or company is not fulfilling their responsibility to you
    - ◇ In-country transportation
    - ◇ Sometimes: local networking events
  - » **Academic Component**
    - ◇ Some placement programs offer courses that complement your internship
    - ◇ Some study abroad organizations have an internship embedded into their program
- 



# **BENEFITS OF A PLACEMENT PROGRAM, Continued**

- » **Group Support**
  - ◇ Structured Excursions
  - ◇ Network of Peers and Potential Friends

**However, don't expect these positions to be paid! Most international internships are unpaid.**






# HOW TO FIND A PLACEMENT PROGRAM

- » [Advising](#) at the International Center
  - » Opportunities through School or College
    - ◇ Example: LSA CGIS or the International Institute
  - » Search engines, like [goabroad.com](https://www.goabroad.com)
    - ◇ [gooverseas.com](https://www.gooverseas.com) or [studyabroad101.com](https://www.studyabroad101.com) for reviews!
  - » Future - Fall 2026: International Opportunities Fair
    - ◇ (Part of the Fall Job & Internship Fair)
- 



# DETERMINING A PROGRAM'S LEGITIMACY

## » Things to look for and consider:

- ◇ 24/7 contact person on the ground
  - ◇ International Health Insurance
  - ◇ Airport pick-up
  - ◇ Housing (Do they provide it? Do they give an address ahead of time?)
  - ◇ Specific information on the internship/volunteer position (i.e. the organization name, location, etc.)
  - ◇ Do they have an internet presence (i.e. social media, website, etc.)?
  - ◇ Do they have reviews online? Be careful! Some reviews can be misleading.
  - ◇ Do they have an onsite orientation?
  - ◇ Do they have local partners and local people involved in the project?
  - ◇ Ethical considerations -- especially if it's a service-oriented internship
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# SELF-ARRANGED INTERNSHIPS

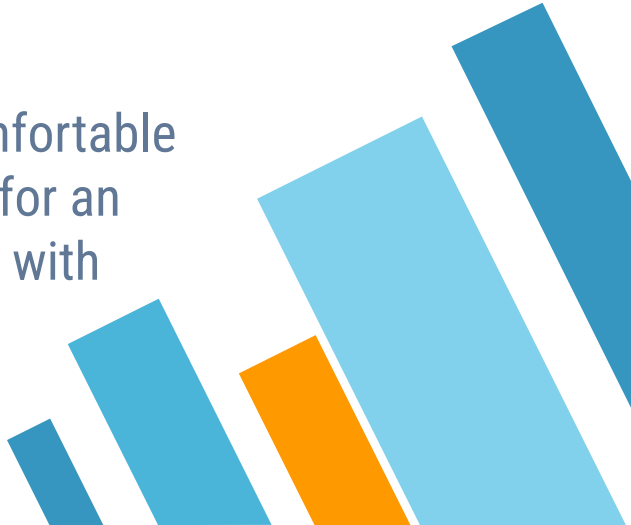
These are opportunities students find for themselves through:

- » [alumni clubs](#),
- » professional networking,
- » family connections,
- » faculty members,
- » personal contacts,
- » and websites like Idealist.org, Handshake, [GoinGlobal](#) and [Interstride](#)





# THINGS TO CONSIDER IN A SELF-ARRANGED INTERNSHIP

- » Legitimacy of the potential host organization
  - » Health & safety
  - » Expenses: airfare, lodging, transportation, food, visa, organization fees, other independent expenses
  - » Logistical arrangements: HOUSING
  - » The level of independence with which you'd be comfortable
  - » Potential complexities involved in obtaining a visa for an internship abroad (contact the International Center with questions!)
  - » Large, well-known corporation vs. small company
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# Health & Safety



Register Your Travel

Site Search



About ▾ Explore Opportunities Abroad ▾ Preparing for your Travel ▾ Travel Safety and Wellness ▾ International Collaborations ▾ News and Stories ▾



Preparing for your Travel / Register Your Travel

## Register Your Travel

The University Travel Registry is a confidential and secure database for maintaining critical international travel information for faculty, staff, and students. This database's contents are kept per the University of Michigan's privacy policy, and information is gathered to locate and communicate with travelers, respond to emergencies, and serve as the central source of anonymous, aggregated travel abroad data for institutional reporting. The University does not share travel registry data outside of these stated business purposes.

*Note: Per federal regulations, U-M personnel with security clearance must also report all international travel to the Facility Security Officer via [ESO.Reports@umich.edu](mailto:ESO.Reports@umich.edu). Registering with the U-M Travel Registry does not fulfill this requirement.*

### Students

Register your international travel and find other important information at M-Compass.

[Student Registration](#)

### Faculty & Staff

U-M faculty and staff — and individuals who are not U-M employees, but are traveling on University of Michigan-related business — may also use this registry.

[Faculty & Staff Registration](#)

## U-M Travel Registry

- Once travel plans are confirmed, enter your travel dates, locations, and contact info in the Travel Registry
- U-M will get in touch in case of an local emergency/natural disaster!

## U-M Travel Abroad Health Insurance

- Only \$1.88 per day, plus a \$5 registration fee!
- HIGHLY COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE
- Also available for leisure travel!

STUDENT LIFE  
UNIVERSITY HEALTH & COUNSELING

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## Travel Abroad Health Insurance Plan

### About

Traveling abroad? This inexpensive health insurance plan, offered through GeoBlue (BCBS Global Solutions), can provide peace of mind for travelers from all three U-M campuses.

All U-M students, faculty and staff traveling abroad for University of Michigan Related Travel (UMRT) are required to have this insurance. It is also available for students, faculty and staff on leisure travel abroad.

### How to Enroll:

- **Students on educational activities abroad**
  - If you will travel as part of a U-M sponsored group, ask your program administrator if they will purchase for you. If so, you do not need to purchase it yourself.
  - Cost: \$1.88 per person/day plus a \$5 administrative fee per person per trip
  - Enroll and purchase via instructions here (if you are prompted to log in, use your U-M email address): [U-M GeoBlue \(BCBS Global Solutions\) Study Abroad Insurance](#)
  - P.S. Don't forget to register your travel in the U-M Travel Registry!
- **Students, faculty & staff on personal/leisure travel abroad**
  - You must purchase this plan prior to departure.
  - Cost: \$1.88 per person/day plus a \$5 administrative fee per person per trip
  - Plan may be purchased for spouses / domestic partners and dependents under the age of 26 traveling with the covered individual.
  - Enroll and purchase via the instructions here (if you are prompted to log in, use your U-M email address): [U-M GeoBlue \(BCBS Global Solutions\) Travel Abroad Insurance: Personal/Leisure Plan](#)
  - Don't forget to register your travel in the U-M Travel Registry!



# Funding for Internships Abroad




# FACT

Most  
international  
internships are  
unpaid.



# SO, HOW DO I FUND THIS?

- » **Merit-based** funding vs. **Need-based** funding
  - » Numerous U-M funding opportunities: [M-Compass](#)
    - ◇ [International Institute](#) (several options - general & region-specific)
    - ◇ [LSA Internship Scholarship](#) (need-based; for CGIS internships only)
    - ◇ [Rackham Funding](#) (several!)
    - ◇ [Mark & Myra Sorensen International Travel Scholarship](#)
    - ◇ [Summer in South Asia \(India\)](#) - *Apply by January 25, 2026*
    - ◇ Inquire about funding with your U-M academic unit
- 


# SO, HOW DO I FUND THIS?, continued

## » External Funding Sources

- ◇ [Gilman Scholarship](#) - credit-bearing internships - Pell Grant Recipients - Deadline: Thurs, March 5, 2026
- ◇ [Boren Awards](#) - academic internships/research with a strong focus on language learning - [UM application support available](#), though campus deadline passed, see below for national deadlines
  - ◇ Boren Fellowship (Graduate students - Jan 28, 2026)
  - ◇ Boren Scholarship (Undergraduate students - Jan 21, 2026)
- ◇ [Fund for Education Abroad](#) Deadline: Wed, Feb 4th, 2026 at noon
- ◇ Scholarships offered through Provider Placement Programs (need- & merit-based)

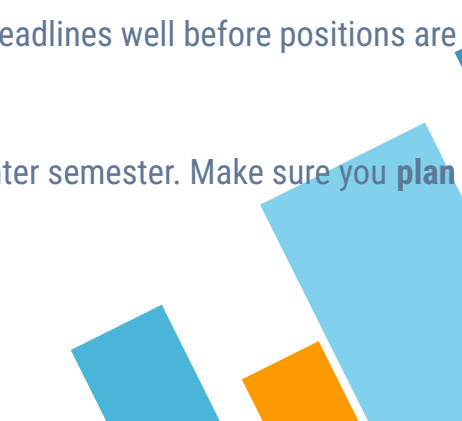


# TIPS FOR PUTTING A FUNDING PROPOSAL TOGETHER

- » Do your **research**: Check that you meet the **eligibility requirements**
  - » Prepare a **proposal statement**
    - ◇ Read and follow instructions: topics to address, length, formatting
    - ◇ Relevance to academics and career; what do you hope to learn?
    - ◇ Why you? Skills, preparation
    - ◇ Writing quality matters!
  - » Put together a **budget**
    - ◇ Airfare, housing, food, insurance, daily commuting, etc.
    - ◇ Use a reasonable estimate; ask people with experience, search the internet, etc.
    - ◇ Stick to this budget while you're abroad!
  - » Obtain a letter/email **confirming your application or acceptance to the program/internship**
  - » **Recommendation** from someone who knows you well
    - ◇ Give recommender ample time to write recommendation
- 



# DON'T GIVE UP!

- » **Plan ahead.** Apply for as many funding opportunities as you are eligible for. Start early, as this can be time-consuming!
  - » **Do your own research.** You may find a very unique opportunity that suits you, just by googling or consulting your networks.
  - » Apply **even if you don't have a confirmed internship position.** Many awards have deadlines well before positions are finalized, and waiting until you have a confirmed internship may be too late.
  - » You may not find out about the results of funding opportunities until late in the Winter semester. Make sure you **plan accordingly.**
  - » Don't be afraid to **hit submit!** You never know what you'll get.
  - » Have a **backup plan** and start saving now!
- 



# TIMELINE

- **Applying for Internships**
    - **U-M Internships:** Early deadlines starting in November/December through February
    - **External (“non-UM”) Options:** Rolling through the end of the Winter term
  - **Applying for Funding**
    - Deadlines range from February 15th through the end of the term
      - Note: Often, you apply for funding AFTER you secure an internship.
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# IC Global Wolverines

- » Series of events to prepare students for international internships over the summer.
- » Upcoming events:
  - ◇ Booking International Flights on a Budget (1/30/26)
  - ◇ Staying Safe and Healthy While Abroad
  - ◇ Survival Language and Culture
  - ◇ How to Make the Most of Your International Internship
  - ◇ Essential Travel Logistics for Students





# Upcoming Events

# Booking International Flights on a Budget

Learn useful tips about booking flights for your international experience!



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**  
**3:00 - 4:00 PM**  
**VIRTUAL**



 **IC GLOBAL WOLVERINES**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## [Register Here!](#)



# TEACHING ENGLISH ABROAD

After Graduation

**M** | STUDENT LIFE  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**M** | LSA ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Friday, January 23, 2026  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Virtual



[Register Here!](#)

TEMPLATE CREDITS:

- » Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- » Photographs by [Unsplash](#)

# THANKS!

## Any questions?

You can reach us at

- » [ic-abroad@umich.edu](mailto:ic-abroad@umich.edu)
- » Virtual [advising hours](#)

