How to Find & Fund an International Internship

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AGENDA

» Introductions
» U-M International Internship Opportunities
» Self-arranged vs. Placement Programs
» Benefits of a International Internship (Student Perspective)
» Funding opportunities
» Q & A
U-M Global Internship Opportunities
An Overview
U-M Programs to Consider

» **LSA Opportunity Hub** - deadlines vary!

» **College of Engineering** - consult *International Programs in Engineering* office

» **International Institute**
  ◇ **WCEE Internship Initiative** - internships in Europe and Eurasia (deadline January 31)
  ◇ **Japan Internship Initiative** - deadline January 31
  ◇ **China Internship Initiative** - Not running in 2023
  ◇ **Summer in South Asia (India)** - deadline January 27

» **Global Health Design Initiative (Ghana & Malawi)** - apply by February 3

» **German Department: Summer Internship in Germany** - Deadline was December 3

» **M-Compass**
INTERN IN EUROPE THIS SUMMER!

WCEE INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE

Deadline: January 31
Please email bkohlerk@umich.edu for more information!
GETTING CREDIT FOR YOUR INTERNSHIP

» LSA Course - ALA 225: Undergraduate Internship Course
   ◦ 1 credit; online
   ◦ Minimum 6 weeks @ 25 hours/week
   ◦ Must sign up before your internship begins
   ◦ Must apply for an override before start of internship (July 1 deadline)

» 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.
Self-Arranged vs. Placement 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.

» Submit an app -> Accepted? -> Pay fee -> Matched to an internship abroad -> Interview with employer -> Go abroad
  ◦ Example: Global Experiences

» 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
BENEFITS OF A PLACEMENT PROGRAM

» **Health & Safety**
  ◇ Safe housing options, safety tips, local insights, emergency contact
  ◇ COVID-19 policies

» **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 Opportunity Hub

» Search engines, like goabroad.com

◊ gooverseas.com for reviews!

» Future - Fall 2023: International Opportunities 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. Facebook, 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
SELF-ARRANGED INTERNSHIPS

These are opportunities students find for themselves through:

» alumni associations,
» professional networking,
» family connections,
» faculty members,
» personal contacts,
» and websites like Idealist.org, Handshake, AngelList (start-ups), GoinGlobal.
THINGS TO CONSIDER IN A SELF-ARRANGED INTERNSHIP

» Legitimacy of the potential host organization
» Health & safety (COVID considerations)
» 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
Health & Safety

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 a local emergency/natural disaster!

U-M Travel Abroad Health Insurance
- Only $1.57 per day, plus a $5 registration fee!
- HIGHLY COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE
- Also available for leisure travel!
Benefits of an International Internship

A Student’s Perspective
My International Internship Experience

- **Name:** Amanda Picariello
- **Organization:** DIS, Study Abroad in Scandinavia
- **Internship Location:** Copenhagen, Denmark
- **Program:** Study Abroad + Internship
- **Internship type:** Marketing Internship for Danish Watch Company
- **Role Description:** Organize branding and external marketing and communications for Danish startup. Pitched company at networking events.
Timeline for Success

After being selected, you thank the people that interviewed you (regardless of acceptance)! Do not burn any bridges!

Schedule advising with the IC to discuss options for internships! Browse for opportunities on CGIS, LinkedIn and Handshake, etc.

After you decide on your top choices and apply to them, you search for funding options on MCompass and your college!

Get ready for your I experience!

Following Up on the Status of a Job Application

1. Don't call them if the listing specifies not to.
2. Keep it short.
3. Be polite and professional.
4. Ask follow-up questions.
5. Double-check previous communications for estimated time frame. 

AngelList

LSA SCHOLARSHIPS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
How I choose my program:

1. Ran by U of M -> Easy and comfortable for me!

2. Taking a course meant I would have a group of friends!

3. Flexible program with subjects that could be applicable in many places in life! Entrepreneurship and Marketing Skills are great to have!
What is there to learn from an international internship?

- Adaptability and responsibility
- Effective workplace communication
- Interaction with foreign professionals on a daily basis
- Time management!
- In general, new experiences!
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!)
  ◦ LSA Internship Scholarship (need-based)
  ◦ Mark & Myra Sorensen International Travel Scholarship
  ◦ Summer in South Asia (India)
  ◦ Swieca Family Israel Travel Fund (Israel)

» External Funding
  ◦ **Gilman Scholarship** (Pell Grant Recipients - Deadline: Thursday, March 9)
  ◦ **Boren Scholarship & Fellowship** (Graduate student funding for internships)
  ◦ **Diversity Abroad**
  ◦ **Fund for Education Abroad**
  ◦ Scholarships offered through Placement Programs

Helpful U-M Websites
- International Center
- M-Compass
- Global Michigan
- Rackham Database
International Institute Student Fellowships
Application Due February 15th, 2023

Money For:
» Internships and Independent Research
» Going OUTSIDE USA
» Students of all levels

Money to:
» U-M Ann Arbor students *regardless of citizenship or major*
» Interns/researchers *returning to campus for at least one term*
» Interns/researchers doing a project between May 1, 2023 and May 31, 2024*

Application Due February 15th, 2023

How much?
» Up to $5K per award
» RIRA Award: up to $10K

But how?
» [https://ii.umich.edu/ii/iisf.html](https://ii.umich.edu/ii/iisf.html) for application components

All Awards:
» **Global Individual Grant (GIG)**
» Rackham International Research Award (RIRA)
» African Studies Center Funding for Research or Internship Support in Africa
» Center for Armenian Studies Summer Research Grants (*May 2023 to Aug 2023*)
» Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies Tinker Field Research Grants for Graduate Students
» Weiser Center for Europe & Eurasia Summer Grants for Research and Internships in Europe & Eurasia

Want future $$ for ☯️?
● Fulbright
● FLAS
● Boren
● Luce
+ More!
[ii.umich.edu](http://ii.umich.edu)
TIPS FOR PUTTING A FUNDING PROPOSAL TOGETHER

» Get your **resume and transcripts** ready!
» Do your **research**
  ◦ Check that you **meet the requirements**
  ◦ **Strengthen your network** of professors, mentors, and employers
» Prepare a **personal statement** that **answers the prompt**
  ◦ Draft one that can be reworked for different funding opportunities
  ◦ Relevance to academics and career, feasibility of project, “why you”
  ◦ Research proposals ≠ funding proposals
» Put together a **budget**
  ◦ Airfare, housing, food, insurance, transportation in-country, 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!

Applying for funding is not easy. You should plan to try to apply for as much as possible, and as early as possible (and that takes a lot of work)!

Do your own research. You may find a very unique opportunity that suits you, just by googling or consulting your networks.

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!
IC Global Wolverines

» **Series of events** to prepare students for international internships over the summer.

» **Cohort Option:**
  ◇ Travel abroad health insurance
  ◇ Extra sessions just for cohort participants
  ◇ Certificate of Completion
  ◇ [Complete this form to register!](#)
THANKS!

Any questions?

You can reach us at
» ic-abroad@umich.edu
» Virtual advising hours