



INTERNSHIPS & CO-OPS

# INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

Students may pursue international internships as part of their collegiate experience or following graduation. These internships present a global learning opportunity at a time when building cross-country and cross-cultural relationships are extremely important skills. Internships may or may not have an academic component; however if a student pursues an international internship through Education Abroad, he/she will also take courses for credit. Use the following websites and phases to begin your planning.

## WEBSITES

- UConn Center for Career Development: <http://career.uconn.edu/internships-and-coops/where-to-find-opportunities/international-internships/>
- [www.huskycareerlink.uconn.edu](http://www.huskycareerlink.uconn.edu) - Log in and use the Going Global database: a directory of internships and full-time international opportunities in over 40 countries
- UConn Education Abroad: <http://abroad.uconn.edu/>

## PHASE 1:

Understanding personal objectives, motivations, and limitations may support the process of searching for an international internship. Ask yourself the following questions and/or schedule an appointment with a member of the Center for Career Development staff.

1. What benefits do you wish to obtain from an international internship? *(For example: future job opportunity, increased understanding of social issues, volunteer, leadership, or teaching experience, being removed from comfort zone, travel opportunity, relevant to course material, and others.)*
2. What are challenges you anticipate in the process of searching for an international internship? *(For example: financials, limited geographical location, time for application process, limited knowledge of traveling or living abroad, and others)* After thinking through the question above, you may proceed to conduct a search for international internships. The sites/agencies below have been reviewed by the Center for Career Development.
3. How much support would you require while living abroad? *(For example: language/cultural barriers, health/mental health resources, friends and family, and others.)*
4. Does UConn support similar programs/allow students in that country? *Consider an experience UConn supports.*

## PHASE 2:

After thinking through the questions above, you may proceed to conduct a search for international internships. Below are websites, resources and agencies which you can start your search. An agency is a third party organization that works with companies across the world to place students with internships and provide support to students traveling abroad.

### International Internships Placement

#### Agencies:

AIIESEC  
BUNAC  
Center for International Studies (CIS)  
EduLab  
CIEE  
IES Abroad  
IAESTE

### International Academic Internships

#### Resources:

UConn Education Abroad Office  
Internships Page  
The Education Abroad Network  
Educational Programs Abroad (EPA)

### International Internships Search Engines:

StudyAbroad.com  
Go Overseas  
Going Global  
*Extensive internship/job board and cultural information source found on HuskyCareerLink at [www.huskycareerlink.uconn.edu](http://www.huskycareerlink.uconn.edu)*

# PHASE 3:

Below are some suggestions for questions to consider asking if you choose to participate in an international internship via a placement agency. These questions, including questions regarding the agency and the types of services it provides, will enable you to match your international internship needs with the agency.

**\*Thoroughly check the agency's website, and if you cannot find the answers to your questions, speak with someone at the organization who can answer your questions.\***

## YES/NO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE AGENCY:

1. Is this a US-based agency?  
*Applying for an international internship placement via a U.S.-based agency is beneficial for several reasons. In addition to having simpler methods of contact, they may have a broader understanding of the U.S. education system including internships and are regulated by U.S. laws and regulations.*
2. Is the agency affiliated with a university? This may be helpful for support, but is not necessary.
3. Is there a contact person from the agency in the country you're planning to intern in?  
Will this person be near your internship placement?  
*Having a contact close to your placement is important for safety purposes. Center for Career Development Tip: There are UConn alum in many countries; go to [uconnalumni.com](http://uconnalumni.com) for contact information.*
4. Does the agency assist with paperwork and/or provide training on international rules and regulations? *It is best to work with an agency that provides this support.*
5. Have any UConn students used their services? If so, can you get contact information to call for reference purposes?
6. Does the agency require any academic courses during your internship? If so, do these cost extra, above the program fees?

## OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS TO ASK THE AGENCY:

1. What is the cost of the program?  
*Verify what is included in the cost. You can also ask the agency for other variable costs that you should anticipate paying.*
2. What international insurance coverage is arranged or provided by the agency, specifically regarding your health?  
*You **MUST** obtain international health insurance for any international internship experience. UConn Education Abroad has Insurance Plans should the agency not have one for you to use.*
3. What options for funding does the agency suggest? Are scholarships an option?
4. Are the internships paid or unpaid?
5. What is the level of support provided by the agency – during the application process and after arriving in the country?
6. Are amenities such as housing or transportation provided?
7. Is security needed and if so, what level of security is offered?
8. What is the agency's response to a crisis during your internship placement?
9. How is the on-site coordinator involved in your time abroad?
10. What are the health resources in the area you're living in?
11. Have other students had bad experiences in the program? What were some of the issues?
12. Are there special considerations that must occur if interning in a specific country? (i.e. take classes, cannot be paid, etc.)

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