International Engineering Internships
INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING INTERNSHIPS

Why Intern Abroad?

Increase your marketability in the job force - Shows that you are open to new ideas and places, have experiences working with people that are different from yourself, and are willing to challenge yourself.

International Engineering Minor - An international internship will fulfill one of the requirements for the international minor—even if you are not taking any engineering classes abroad.

Cultural Immersion/Global Perspective - A great chance to live and work in another country and experience a new culture first hand! Learn about a new culture, meet new people, obtain new experiences that challenge you to think differently.

Learn a new language - Many options are available in countries like England, Australia, and Ireland, but it can also be a great opportunity to go to a non-English speaking country and pick up a new language.

Potentially earn academic credit - Many of these opportunities include joint language/internship options, or culture classes/internship options.

Check List of Things to Consider

☐ Talk to both major and study abroad advisors for the best time to go.
  ▪ A semester? A summer? How long can you leave for and stay on track for a timely graduation?
  ▪ Create new 4-year plan
  ▪ Determine what (if any) courses need to/should be taken abroad
  ▪ Visit the international minor advisor—Contact Ramsey Jabaji at rjabaji@umd.edu to see if/how any credits might transfer to UMD.

☐ Decide what you want from your experience abroad.
  ▪ Research, volunteer, or internship?
  ▪ Program or independent?
    o Is the third-party company reliable? Trustworthy? Research the company ahead of time and look up reviews of past participants. Make sure that you’re choosing a company that will provide you with a positive experience
    o Does this company provide you with any Support Services? Many of these companies charge fees to help you find an internship. Look into the costs and see what services are provided. Are you guaranteed a relevant internship in the country of your choice? Do they help you get a visa? Do they pick you up at the airport when you arrive? Will they have support staff for you abroad if you need help?

☐ Decide what you want from your destination country.
  Don’t just pick a place because you like the country. While location is important, you want to make sure that you’re doing all the research and picking the program that will be most beneficial for you.
- Do you speak another language? Are you willing to learn a new one? If not, consider options in English-speaking countries, or a program that allows you to live in a non-English speaking country but allows you to work in an English-speaking environment.
- What type of location? (rural, city, or suburban; hot or cold)
- Research the safety of the country. If you’re female—what is the atmosphere like for women in that particular country? Do you need to take any safety precautions?
- Is your health okay? For instance, if you are diabetic, make sure that you can take enough insulin with you, or make sure that you will be in an area where you can easily receive medical help if necessary. Check out: http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html for country-specific safety information.

☐ **Determine your budget.** Are you willing to work/study abroad and not get paid? Some of the programs are expensive; but for some you can receive academic credit. Some of the program fees include things like housing and visas, etc. but not all of them do. There are a few paid internships, but the money is usually only enough to cover your basic living expenses while you’re abroad—it will be difficult to save money.
- Use internship, housing, budget, and country information to figure out what programs/options are best for you
- Apply to scholarships and financial aid

☐ **Decide what you want from your housing.**
- Provided through program/employer or found on own?
- Live with a host family or live with other interns?
- Total immersion into the culture/language?
- Dorm-style or apartment style housing?
- Will you be staying near your job?
- Is transportation accessible to your job?

☐ **Research/Prepare (international documents and job search)**
- Visit the Engineering Co-op Office to help you create an international resume and talk about the job search process. International resumes tend to look very different from U.S. resumes—some include pictures, more personal information, and have different layouts.
- Research and Apply to jobs
- Contact employers and participate in interviews.
- Visit the international minor advisor—Contact Ramsey Jabaji at rjabaji@umd.edu to talk about important pre-departure aspects.
- **Apply for passport**—this can sometimes take a few months! Apply early!
- **Once accepted: get insurance and apply for visa**—research different insurance options and apply for the visa (if needed) ASAP—it can take awhile.

☐ **Before you leave to go abroad, make sure you have:**
- Up to date vaccinations
- Health Insurance
- Prescriptions medicines
- Travel Insurance. This is a requirement for you that is provided by some companies, others don’t. This typically costs around $50/month.
- Copies of all credit cards you’re travelling with
- Emergency contact information, both at home and abroad
- **Inform the Engineering Co-op & Career Services Office and the International Engineering Programs Office**—inform us that you are going to work abroad and fill out necessary forms. Keep us updated on your experience so we can share with future students!
Third-Party Internship Companies/Resources
These are possible companies that can help you find an international engineering internship.

DAAD Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE)
- Paid summer research internship program in Germany (working language is English)
- There is also a RISE Professional program for graduate students

Cultural Vistas
- Korea, Switzerland, Germany, Argentina, Chile, Spain
- Fellowships, Internships and Study Abroad
- [www.culturalvistas.org](http://www.culturalvistas.org)

Global Experiences Engineering Internships
- For Civil/Mechanical/Electrical/Structural/Biochemical Engineers
- Seville, Spain, Dublin, Ireland, and Sydney, Australia
- Combination language (for Spain) and internship program
- Unpaid internships—Australia visa will allow up to 1 year of paid work (after the initial short unpaid internship, you can seek out your own paid employment)

Experiential Learning International—Engineering Internships
- Shanghai, China: for Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, and Chemical Engineers
- Chile: Civil, Industrial, Electrical, and Mining Engineering
- Ireland: For IT, Telecommunications, Computer Engineers
- South Africa: for Civil, Mechanical/Wastewater, Computer Engineers

Arcadia
- Combination study abroad/unpaid internship
- Dublin, London, Sydney have engineering internship options

IEM Internships Abroad
- Combination of academic credit and an unpaid internship
- IEM helps place students at internships in Australia, China, and Vietnam
- [http://iemstudyabroad.com/students/study-abroad-internships/](http://iemstudyabroad.com/students/study-abroad-internships/)

The Education Abroad Network (TEAN)
- Internships available in Australia, New Zealand and China
- Can choose to only do internship, or to combine the internship with classes for academic credit
- Summer, Semester, or Year-long placements available
- Costs money, but support services are available on site and TEAN matches students with employers who are often willing to sponsor a work visa after the initial unpaid term of employment
- [http://www.educationabroadnetwork.org/](http://www.educationabroadnetwork.org/)
International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experiences (IAESTE)
- International work exchange opportunities
- Summer, Semester, or Year-long opportunities available
- Receiving country typically takes care of visas, work permits, and accommodations
- Receive cost-of-living allowance, but students must cover their own travel costs and personal insurance, as well as a placement fee
- [http://www.iaeste.org/](http://www.iaeste.org/)

Going Global
- International job search database
- Provides information on the job market in each specific country, as well as country-specific resume and interview tips, information on the country’s work culture, cost-of-living, and how to obtain the necessary visa to work in that country
- [http://online.goingglobal.com/](http://online.goingglobal.com/)

IIEPassport Study Abroad Directories
- The IIEPassport Study Abroad Directories are a joint project between the Institute of International Education (IIE) and EducationDynamics.
- [http://www.iiepassport.org/advancedsearch.aspx](http://www.iiepassport.org/advancedsearch.aspx) - click internships in drop down menu

Passport to India
- Public/Private partnership lists
- [http://www.state.gov/p/sca/ci/in/passport_to_india/index.htm](http://www.state.gov/p/sca/ci/in/passport_to_india/index.htm) - general information
- [http://www.facebook.com/pass2india](http://www.facebook.com/pass2india) - listing of sponsored programs

Fulbright U.S. Student Program
- [The Fulbright U.S. Student Program](http://fulbright.state.gov/participating-countries.html) offers fellowships for U.S. graduating seniors, graduate students, young professionals and artists to study abroad for one academic year.
- [http://fulbright.state.gov/participating-countries.html](http://fulbright.state.gov/participating-countries.html)

Whitaker International Program
- The Whitaker International Program sends emerging leaders in U.S. biomedical engineering (or bioengineering) overseas to undertake a self-designed project that will enhance their own careers within the field. (any country worldwide)
- Accepts applications from non-bioengineering majors.
- Biomedical engineers can use the Whitaker International Fellows and Scholars Program to go overseas to help further their careers, and the field of BME. Potential overseas activities could include:
  - Conducting research at an academic institution
  - Interning at a policy institute
  - Establishing ties between home and host institutions
  - Pursuing post-doctoral research
- Travel expenses (round trip air), living costs, insurance, tuition reimbursement (if applicable), monthly stipend. Cost free for host and home institution.
- [http://www.whitaker.org/](http://www.whitaker.org/)
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

- The Gilman Scholarship Program is designed to support participation in a full-time study abroad program for undergraduate academic credit, not paid work abroad. However, applications will be considered from students who propose an internship as an integrated and meaningful component of their study abroad program. Also, students studying in countries which allow those on student visas to work part-time may do so as long as they maintain full-time enrollment in their study abroad program and are not in violation of any laws or regulations of their program or host country.
- Priority outside Western Europe/Australia
- To be eligible, students must be receiving a Federal Pell grant.
- [http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program](http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program)

Boren Awards

- Interest in studying languages (*not in Europe*)
- Interest in working with the federal government after graduation. People who get a Boren will commit to working in federal government for 1 year.
  - $8,000 for a summer program (special initiative for STEM students only; 8 weeks minimum)
  - $10,000 for a semester
  - $20,000 for a full academic year
- [http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/basics.html](http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/basics.html)

Global E³

- Paid practical internships in industry are usually arranged by students through contacts provided by host institutions. Internships may be available in Australia, Egypt, Indonesia, India, Israel and the UK. US students may increase their chances of receiving financial aid by electing to do an overseas internship in industry. Finding an internship generally takes considerable initiative on the part of the student with assistance from the host university.
- [http://www.iie.org/programs/globale3](http://www.iie.org/programs/globale3)