Broadening Views of Work and the World through International Exchange: Three Steps to Success

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Step 1: Defining your purpose

The aims of IAESTE
- "To provide students in higher education with technical experience relevant to their studies."
- "To be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host communities"
- "To offer employers well-qualified and motivated trainees."

http://www.iaeste.org/about/index.html

Step 1: Defining your purpose

- "To provide students in higher education with technical experience relevant to their studies."
- Through the internship experience, ask yourself...
  - Is this really what I want to do after I graduate?
  - What skills do I need to be successful?
  - What can I do to stand out from the crowd?

International internship is a fact finding mission

Step 1: Defining your purpose

- "To be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host communities"
- Through the internship experience, broaden your vision...
  - How do other people see the world?
  - What can I learn from other people's views?
  - Why do other people act like they do?

International internship is a chance to open your eyes and those of the people around you
Step 2: Planning for internship

To offer employers well-qualified and motivated trainees.

"Ouchy worked extremely diligently on both projects and her technical and spoken English were excellent. She had little difficulty in fitting into our practice culture and work. She has much to offer and we have been fortunate in having her talents available to help project a high-quality service to prospective clients. We always seem to do well with the choice of IAESTE candidates and Ouchy was excellent."

http://www.britishcouncil.org/full_employer_information.pdf

- Are you well-qualified?
  - Find out where you are going.
  - Find out what the company mission is.
  - Find out what the job involves.
- Are you motivated?
  - If yes, show it - be proactive (not reactive)
  - If no, think about what is worrying you?
  - Have you planned enough?

- Do you know the culture of the country and company where you will go?
- Do you work well with other people?
  - Learn to listen to other people's ideas, but don't forget your own.
  - Learn to communicate your ideas, suggestions, comments, and feelings

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Develop your technical English

(http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~alzsh3/acvocab/wordlists.htm)

- First, study the most common words of English.
  - 2000 words cover almost 80% of all English!
- Second, study academic words of English
  - There are only a few academic (and technical) words!

Develop your spoken English!

- Be confident even when you are making mistakes
- Don't stop when you forget one word
- Try shadowing as a way to improve your speed, intonation, stress, and pronunciation
Step 2:
Planning for internship

- Shadowing
  1. The lecture was a diverse mix of world history and contemporary issues.
  2. India is a vast melting pot of different races and cultures.
  3. An interview in front of a TV camera is intimidating to most of us.
  4. The government took vigorous measures to accelerate economic growth.
  5. I’ve decided to transfer to another college after my sophomore year.

Step 3:
Reflection and Consolidation

- When you return from your internship, ask yourself...
  - What did I learn?
  - What did I do well?
  - What wasn’t so good?
  - What do I need to do to be more successful in the future?
  - What is the next step?

UK Trainee of the Year:
Deborah Suart

“I feel that my IAESTE placement has enriched my life and will benefit me in my future career...

These life lessons have increased my skills in team working, mixing with people from different cultures and forming relationships with people who are completely different from myself.

These skills will be put to good use throughout my career as an engineer.”

International internship provides an opportunity to...
...find out about yourself
...find out about the world
...find out your future

It is an experience you will never forget....