# **INTERNSHIPS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE** Benefits and Challenges of Interning on Community Development and Environmental Programs Abroad

With an increasing number of students taking part in internships domestically and abroad, there is a growing need for internship opportunities in more unique locations and diverse academic areas.

For millennials we also see a trend towards becoming more globally-aware, and socially conscious in a marketplace which is bringing the world of business and philanthropy together like we've never seen before.



Millennials would take a pay cut to work somewhere that is changing the world for

(2012 study by The Intelligence Group)



Millennial consumers say they would buy a product because of a cause association.

Countless studies on the Millennial generation show how the expectations for business to get more involved in addressing social issues will drive a future marketplace where skills in development become a valuable commodity!

(http://www.mslgroup.com/insights/2014/the-future-of-business-citizenship.aspx)

# **Challenges and Considerations**

- Identifying genuine projects with a good level of organization and qualified **supervision** – work with trusted on-site partner who understands your requirements
- Identifying and managing ethical issues surrounding development -Challenge providers/partners on experience in service and their ethical stance. Good providers have staff who can all answer these questions automatically.
- Managing onsite support and risk management standards ensuring you have a trusted on-site coordinator
- Health and safety concerns that arise in rural /less developed locations working with established incidents and emergency procedures
- Challenges arising from communication between cultures or language **barriers** – having cultural orientations in place and coordinators experienced in dealing with Western students
- Concern over contact with and oversight of student at the location establish available methods of communication and ensure a local coodinator provides 24/7 support
- Managing student expectations establish the importance of learning, observation and humble appreciation and address the problem of 'savior complex'
- Managing the expectations of host communities and organizations Having a coordinator who recognizes the potential for local over-expectation of the student's skills and abilities
- Faculty/International office inexperience with advising on unknown destinations - Request the information you need and ask partners to assist in advising, even at the inquiry stage
- Questions surrounding the stability of political climates or ongoing turmoil with neighboring countries – maintain an oversight on Department of State warnings. Many destinations are either stable or have only very localized problems



# **Placement Opportunities with Positive Impacts**



Medical Internship in Belize

Working with local staff in hospitals and clinics in areas such as nursing, specific hospital departments and health education, learning about local practices, structures and approaches.



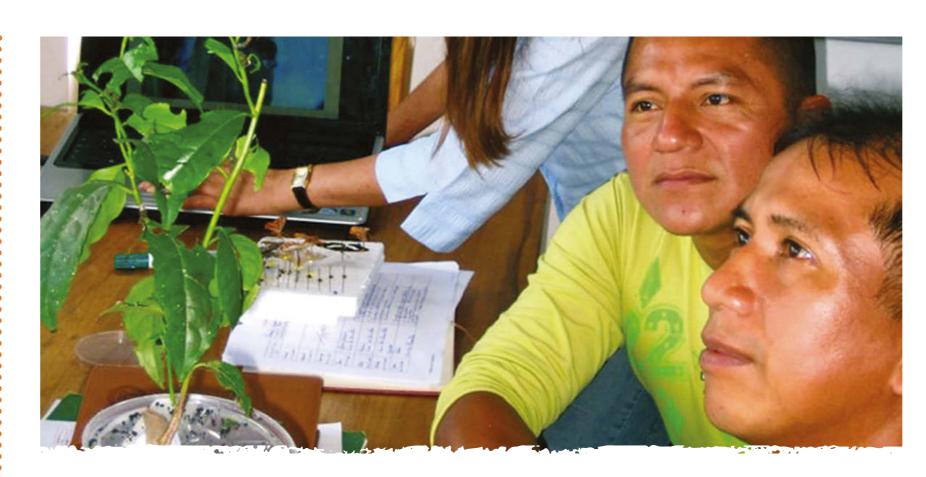
### **Pre-Vet Internship in South Africa**

Working with local veterinarians involved with game movement, wildlife reserve management and habitat conservation, exploring the challenges of urbanization.



NGO Development Internship in Thailand

Write reports, run English training sessions, review website content, develop grant proposals and outreach to communities within the structure of an operating NGO.





Develop sports curriculum's for children, work with online marketing content, coach sports, community events and research impact of sports on children.



There is a growing need for a generation of citizens that have exposure to the realities of development and tackling social issues, an understanding of the business approaches to social responsibility and the ability to operate within the communities and environments they seek to impact.

### Fair Trade Internship in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Community development through workshops, eco tourism projects, social media, forest conservation, support social entrepreneurship initiatives.

### Sports Development Internship in Swaziland

### Rainforest Habitat and Wildlife **Conservation in Costa Rica**

Working with environmental scientists on sea turtle monitoring, species studies and tracking, and biological assessments surveys.

# **Benefits of Internships in Development**

How do these placements benefit the student, your institution and our society?

# FOR STUDENTS

### PERSONALLY

- the real world
- growing global economies
- non-westernized cultures
- reliant on technology

### **FINANCIALLY**

- them because their are less students applying
- students worried about financial burden of going abroad

### FOR FUTURE CAREERS

- Shows flexibility and important cross cultural communication skills

### FOR YOUR INSTITUTION

- Enables you to offer for-credit options for service activities
- Expands offerings and locations
- Offers opportunities in niche academic areas and markets
- Potential to offer more low-cost program options
- Through all these factors, provide an opportunity to increase number of students going abroad by offering options to previously underrepresented sectors in study-abroad
- Increases institutional competitiveness

# SOCIALLY

- Improves international and intercultural understanding
- Offers unique, first-hand experience with global issues and problems
- Develops global citizens who are more culturally aware and competent

• Exposes students to the reality of the issues involved in tackling social and environmental problems in

• Provides an understanding of different global work contexts and issues influencing operations in development and overall in these areas of the world which are increasingly important in today's

• Offers great personal growth through the challenge associated with adapting to less familiar,

• Opportunity for greater responsibility, involvement and achievement exists in resource-poor organizations, because the need for an intern is greater in comparison.

• Improved language and communication skills can be developed working in environments less

• Scholarships are available for non-traditional locations and there is often a higher chance of getting

• Cost of living is often much cheaper in developing locations which can increase the opportunities for

• Sets intern apart as a risk taker who is adaptable and willing to address challenges head on.

• Demonstrates that the student in interested in different ways of learning and new perspectives

• Marks a candidate as a good prospect for roles requiring global travel and social corporate responsibility • Provides an interesting context for discussion that can make a candidate more appealing to interviewers