PRACTICUM AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

There are a variety of practicum and volunteer projects available through International Academic Programs (IAP). These are designed for students or community members who would like to learn more about the field of study abroad. Each volunteer or practicum student will be assigned a Project Supervisor in IAP. At the end of each semester, practicum students or volunteers will be expected to give a presentation to the IAP staff on the project(s) they completed during the semester.

Practicum students will also have weekly readings on study abroad and advising topics with IAP staff members. Volunteers may choose to join these readings as well.

Opportunities to shadow advising done through walk-in or appointments may be available depending on the schedule set for the practicum or volunteer hours. Opportunities to assist in application review, orientation sessions, or outreach events may also be available. Practicum students or volunteers should notify their Project Supervisor if they are interested in these options.

Typically, there is an expectation that practicums or volunteers will be with IAP for a minimum of one semester. Volunteers are asked to work a minimum of 4 hours/week and practicum students a minimum of 8 hours/week. It is expected that volunteers and practicum students will take initiative and have a high level of independence.

Current volunteer and practicum projects are listed on pages 2 and 3. Interested volunteers or practicum students should email Susan Lochner (slochner@studyabroad.wisc.edu) a cover letter explaining his/her interest in the topic and a résumé.
PRACTICUM AND VOLUNTEER PROJECTS AVAILABLE

Curriculum Integration

Study abroad offices are working on a new initiative called Curriculum Integration which involves working with academic departments to see how to best fit study abroad into course requirements for a specific major/certificate, as well as working with various professional staff across campus advising students on study abroad. This project may involve compiling participant data by major or school/college, researching study abroad options within specific academic disciplines, assisting with surveys to faculty/advisors, conducting focus groups, and/or creating materials (print/web).

Impact of Study Abroad

IAP values assessing the impact of study abroad on its programs’ alumni. This project could include a literature review of research done on impact of study abroad, a time to graduation analysis, an alumni survey, and a specific assessment project, and/or creating resources for returned students on how to talk about their experience.

Marketing Research

According to the American Council on Education’s “College-Bound Students’ Interest in Study Abroad and Other International Learning Activities” (2008), more than half of students surveyed (55%) said they were certain or fairly certain they would study abroad, and 26% said they would love to do it but don’t think it is possible. While study abroad numbers are strong at UW-Madison, we want to understand what students think about study abroad and get an even better idea of their perceived barriers. This project could involve a literature review of research already completed, development of a survey for seniors, creation and analysis of a survey for freshman, advisor surveys, focus groups, and/or creation of materials for the web/print materials.
PRACTICUM AND VOLUNTEER PROJECTS AVAILABLE

Parents

IAP recognizes the important role that parents play in their students’ lives. We hope to increase the resources and information we have available for parents. The practicum or volunteer who works on this project may conduct literature reviews, interview key departments on campus about needed resources, survey parents and analyze data, and/or create materials (web, print, social media).

Student Identity

IAP considers study abroad to be an integral part of the learning experience at UW-Madison. We believe all students should have the opportunity to study abroad during their academic career. We hope to expand our student identity (students with disabilities, multicultural students, GLBT students, gender) resources available to students on our Web site and in our promotional materials. The practicum or volunteer who works on this project may conduct literature reviews, interview key departments on campus about needed resources, survey students, conduct focus groups, and/or create materials (web, print, social media).