

How to Participate in the SEAS International Internship Program

U.Va.'s School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) is committed to incorporating an international focus into its programs to help ensure that SEAS students are well-prepared to work in a global economy. There is an increasing demand for engineers with foreign language and cultural fluencies. SEAS students can gain a competitive advantage when seeking global opportunities by incorporating international experiences into their undergraduate studies, including foreign language coursework, involvement in multicultural organizations, international study, and interning or volunteering overseas.

The **Center for Engineering Career Development (CECD)** works with SEAS International Programs to educate students about global opportunities for undergraduates, and provides them with comprehensive resources to facilitate international employment options so that they can make informed international internship program decisions.

Exploring Short-Term Work Opportunities Overseas

There are personal and professional benefits to gaining international work experience, including:

- The opportunity to grow and develop by embarking on a challenging adventure
- The chance to experience in-depth cultural immersion
- The opportunity to strengthen your resume
- Strategic preparation for an international career
- Enhancement of foreign language proficiency

Generally, there are a couple of recommended routes to secure an international placement:

- Application to multinational organizations (with and without formalized internship programs)
- Using private or nonprofit internship placement organizations

CECD can provide you with assistance to explore all of these options. Students are welcome to make an appointment with Denise Egan, assistant director of CECD, to explore opportunities (degan@virginia.edu or 434.982.2370) or to visit the International Opportunities section of the CECD Web site (www.seas.virginia.edu/careerdevelopment). The site includes links to a variety of international internship and volunteer programs as well as to numerous international employment search sites and directories.

Securing a productive and valuable international internship or volunteer experience requires research, thoughtful planning and perseverance. The CECD is committed to helping you through the process. Note that time is of the essence: An effective search typically begins six to nine months prior to actual departure. This is essential to allow adequate consideration of expenses, academic schedule, work visas, foreign language requirements, travel arrangements and housing.

For more information, contact Dana Elzey, director of SEAS International Programs, at elzey@virginia.edu or 434.982.5796.