INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS (i-Intern)

Developing 21st Century skills through Internships

Your personal and academic experience...
ICD strives to promote global peace and stability through cultural diplomacy. I not only learnt about the inner workings of an international non-profit organisation, but also contributed actively to its mission and goals. I gained knowledge on the European Union – its stands on cultural issues, international politics and economics and its relations with the rest of the world. I also improved my French and Italian language skills.

What were some of your duties?
As I intended to major in communications and new media, I worked with the Head of Media and the President of ICD to improve their social media strategies. I drafted a report on the social media activities of industry competitors and created effective benchmarks to measure the impact of ICD’s campaigns. I went on to the R&D team, where I worked on projects such as the Italian National and the Moscow Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy, and the Symposium on Regional Cultural Diplomacy in the Francophone Region.

My experience at ICD was extremely enriching as I learnt to work with people from around the world on various projects. I would definitely look forward to working in or with HSL in the future and would encourage my juniors to apply for the internship.

Muhammad Azmi Bin Suliman, Faculty of Engineering, i-Intern with HSL Constructor Pte Ltd, Indonesia

I had a wonderful and enriching internship experience with HSL. I learnt a lot from my supervisors on being professional as an engineer on site. I would definitely look forward to working in or with HSL in the future and would encourage my juniors to apply for the internship.

Muhammad Azmi (left) with fellow NUS student, Willy Halim on a piling barge

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS (i-Intern)
To prepare NUS students for the demands of an increasingly globalised economy and interconnected international community, IRO offers i-Intern for students to expand their knowledge and hone their skills in a cross-cultural workplace setting. These programmes are generally held for three months in May to July each year. A longer attachment of up to six months may be possible. Visit www.nus.edu.sg/iro/opp/index.html for more details.

AN INTERVIEW WITH HSL’S HR MANAGER
Mr Daniel Ong, Human Resources Manager of HSL Constructor in Singapore shared with us his views on internships and gave us insight into the qualities an intern should possess.

Do you think internships are important?
To swim well, you must first dip into the water. Internships are thus very important. Through internships, students are able to build awareness of their project managers and moved with the priorities set out for the team. In any organisation, having the technical know-how is important but sometimes even more so the soft skills to approach people and issues. The interns adapted well in this aspect.

What qualities do you think an intern should possess?
In the context of construction, interns need to be able to reconcile what they learn in class to the actual work on site, and on top of that deal with a great deal of ambiguity while maintaining a sense of project control.

The interns did very well! They demonstrated initiative and drive, asked good questions, stayed close to their project managers and moved with the priorities set out for the team. In any organisation, having the technical know-how is important but sometimes even more so the soft skills to approach people and issues. The interns adapted well in this aspect.

How do you think our interns performed?
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Do you have any advice for future applicants?
Be prepared to learn and adapt, as in business, staying still means drifting backwards. Be very resilient by asking questions, take up challenges and constantly add value by assisting your manager and team mates. There’s so much one can learn, so be a sponge and start absorbing!

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StepOut • International Internships (i-Intern): The Importance of Internships

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Top Ten Tips on how to get the most out of your internship

1. **BE PROFESSIONAL**
   - Turn up on time and dress smartly. Be a conscientious colleague – try to make less work for your colleagues, not more!

2. **THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK**
   - Remember that you are being assessed on your attitude and how you fit in as much as on the quality of your work, so be friendly yet diplomatic.

3. **BE A CHAMELEON**
   - Respect the working culture and adapt to it, taking your cues from those around you.

4. **TAKE EVERYTHING IN**
   - Observe how your colleagues communicate, and try to get a feel for what your department does in the wider context.

5. **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS — DO NOT FORCE THEM, AND DO NOT NEGLECT THEM**
   - Be friendly and receptive, but not too pushy.

6. **IF YOU GET THE CHANCE TO USE YOUR INITIATIVE AND SHOW WHAT YOU ARE MADE OF, GO FOR IT!**
   - Going the extra mile is a surefire way to stand out.

7. **WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK!**
   - If you are unsure of what to do, it is much better to double-check than to take a wild stab in the dark.

8. **BE REALISTIC**
   - Your work experience will most likely involve some mundane, routine tasks. Still, do not think yourself too good for any task, no matter how small.

9. **REMEMBER, THIS IS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE**
   - Some companies may treat internships as a way of recruiting future talent. But, on the whole, work experience is just that – an experience. However, your work experience turns out, and whether or not you receive a permanent job offer, focus on learning from it above all else.

10. **BE ENTHUSIASTIC**
    - (Even if you may not always feel like it!)

Keen to embark on the Student Exchange Programme (SEP) to Turkey or Israel but unsure of what to expect? We hope this short guide will address some of your concerns and inspire you to choose the road less travelled.

Common questions about exchange in Turkey and Israel:

1. **Are Turkey and Israel safe and politically stable?**

2. **ALIGNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TRAVEL GUIDELINES AND ADVICE**
   - IRO works closely with NUS Office of Safety, Health and Environment to provide travel advice to students who are going overseas for various global initiatives. IRO also adheres to the travel advice provided by Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). If MFA advises against travelling to Turkey or Israel, we will inform students who are selected for exchange to these two countries. The final decision on whether to proceed with the exchange programme will then be decided by the students and their parents/guardians.

3. **INSURANCE AND CRISIS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES**
   - **TURKEY**
     - International students going to Turkey for exchange have to purchase an insurance plan which covers 100% of the fees for medication, inpatient hospitalisation and outpatient clinic. The strict requirements are needed for the application of residency permit that grants legal status to students to stay in Turkey for the period of exchange.
   - The selected partner universities in Turkey have in place their own crisis and emergency standard operating procedures. NUS students are advised to attend briefings at their host university which address the university’s support in times of crisis or emergency.

   - **ISRAEL**
     - Both NUS and the partner university require students to have full health insurance coverage for the duration of their exchange in Israel. The partner university will offer its own health insurance scheme, for example, Technion’s Yedidim Medical Insurance Plan, but it is important to review the coverage dates and details to determine if a supplementary travel insurance is also needed (recommended).

   - Our Israeli partner universities take safety and the well-being of students very seriously. It is highly recommended that students on SEP to Israel attend any orientation sessions conducted by their host university, to familiarise themselves with protocols and procedures during any crisis or emergency situation.

The article above was contributed by the Centre for Future-ready Graduates. NUS Career Centre has recently been repositioned as the Centre for Future-ready Graduates. http://nus.edu.sg/osa/ncc in order to serve you better.
## Which universities in Turkey and Israel are NUS partnering with?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOST UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>SUITABILITY</th>
<th>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEP PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN TURKEY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilkent University</td>
<td>Students from all majors</td>
<td>Academic strengths in Engineering, Technology and Natural Sciences.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Free on-campus accommodation for twin-sharing rooms if students apply before deadline.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students who want to stay in a single room can book a single room and pay the difference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabanci University</td>
<td>Students from FoE, FoS, FASS</td>
<td>On-campus accommodation is available as long as students apply before deadline. Exchange for FoE, SoC and FASS students starting in semester 2 of AY2015/16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIZ students should apply to their Dean’s office directly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogazici University</td>
<td>Only for USP students</td>
<td>Started as Robert College in 1863, this school is the oldest American College outside of the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koc University</td>
<td>Only for BIZ undergraduates</td>
<td>Both Koc Business School and NUS Business School are partners under the CEMS Global Alliance in Management Education network for Business graduates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| SEP PARTNER UNIVERSITIES IN ISRAEL                                                                 |
| Technion-Israel Institute of Technology           | Students from all majors but more suitable for FoE students | Often dubbed the “MIT of the Middle East” or “Israel’s Hard Drive”, it is not hard to see why Technion is a great fit for FoE students! |
| Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ)               | Students from all majors but more suitable for FASS, BIZ and LAW. | HUJ’s Rothberg International School first opened its doors in 1955 to just 22 American students. Now, the school attracts more than 2,000 students from over 80 countries each year! |
| Tel Aviv University                               | Only for BIZ graduate-level students       | Please contact NUS Business School for more information.                                |

## What languages are being used in these selected universities in Turkey and Israel?

**TURKEY**
Most courses are conducted in English. However, students are advised to go through each university’s course list to find suitable courses taught in English before applying. Turkish is the main language used in daily conservations among the locals. It is recommended that students pick up basic Turkish while on exchange in Turkey.

**ISRAEL**
Although the official language of instruction at all three Israeli partner universities is Hebrew, many courses are taught in English through the universities’ international schools. Each university offers a detailed list of courses taught in English, therefore, please review this list and consult your home faculty’s SEP advisor to determine if SEP to Israel can be a good fit for your academic plan.

## What scholarship or financial support is available?

**TURKEY**
Under the Young Talent Programme – Market Immersion (YTP), International Enterprise (IE) Singapore provides co-funding to NASA (NUS Awards for Study Abroad) awardees for their SEP to Turkey. For more info, please visit www.nus.edu.sg/iro/financial/out/others/bFindex.html.

**ISRAEL**
Nasa awards are available for students who choose SEP to Israel and require financial assistance. For more info, please visit www.nus.edu.sg/iro/financial/out/nasa/index.html.

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How would you like to read a book while floating in the Dead Sea? Or explore the Old City in Jerusalem while enjoying a delicious shawarma (meat pita)?

When I was offered the opportunity to go on the Student Exchange Programme to Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Israel, I jumped at the chance and joined three other NUS friends, on our journey there. In all honesty, I was apprehensive about going there initially because the Middle East is probably not the first choice for many when they think of student exchange and safety in general, but I wanted to step out of my comfort zone.

According to St Augustine, “The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” I truly appreciated the beauty of these words during my five months there. My experience in Israel has really opened my eyes to a whole new world and I constantly learnt new things about culture, history and religion. The locals amazed me with their helpfulness and friendliness, which in no small way helped me feel welcome upon my arrival. Not to be fooled by their genial personalities though, for many Israelis possess a steely look of toughness in their eyes. Have I mentioned that the males serve three years and the females serve two years in army? The Israelis take their security seriously… you definitely do not want to trifle with them.

Instead of going to conventional countries for exchange, why not take a leap of faith and give Israel a chance? I enjoyed my experience thoroughly and I strongly recommend going to Technion for SEP to all my juniors. You know why?

Because Israel definitely deserves a page in your life story, just as it did in mine.
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMMES (i-SP)

A Cultural Immersion in China

Gene Lim Xin Ya from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences grew quite attached to China after the Peking University Summer School International programme and urged students to fully immerse themselves when abroad.

What did you gain from the i-SP?
I emerged from the lessons with very clear knowledge on how China has transformed both politically and economically over the years. I also learnt how business is conducted and how connections are of paramount importance. China is a very fascinating country indeed, and I gained a whole new level of appreciation for the Chinese culture.

Your most important lesson learnt?
In order to get the most out of the programme, you have to fully immerse yourself in the culture of the host country. Hence, do not be afraid to speak to the locals! Don’t hesitate to ask for tips from local students and also for tours of the campus. They will be more than happy to bring you around.

Still missing Beijing...
Even after returning to Singapore, I find myself missing life in Beijing. Peking University really lived up to its reputation. I have nothing but good reviews for the host university and would definitely recommend the programme to other students!

What did you gain from the i-RAP?

Stephen Haniel Yuwono from the Faculty of Science went on the American Chemical Society (ACS) International Research Experience for Undergraduates (IREU) programme in Texas, USA and plans to pursue a graduate degree in Chemistry.

Why did you choose this programme?
I chose it because I wanted more exposure to the field of computational chemistry. I also plan to pursue my graduate degree in USA, and the i-RAP was an opportunity for me to get to know the culture and working environment there. I feel that I can now make a more informed decision based on my experience.

How do you think your experience will contribute to your future career?
I joined a research group at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton and learnt that a good researcher balances the passion for knowledge with the pursuit of results. Additionally, the need to network with fellow researchers is important to help in developing new ideas and research methodologies.

Advice for future participants...
My supervisor advised me to consider the following two factors before proceeding to do research and/or graduate study. Firstly, decide on the kind of research you want to embark on as every supervisor has their own areas of expertise. Secondly, their style of guiding also matters, depending on whether you prefer working independently, or a more hands-on approach.

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STEER towards MYANMAR

The STEER programme has brought more than 60 NUS undergraduates to Myanmar in 2013 and 2014! Due to popular demand, NUS STEER Myanmar will have a re-run in 2015.

STEER Myanmar was an insightful study trip that allowed me to see Myanmar’s potential. From bustling Yangon to beautiful Mandalay, from rustic Bagan to the seat of government at Naypyidaw, the two weeks in Myanmar was truly an eye opener.

Micole Soh, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and University Scholars Programme, STEER Myanmar

Everything that can be is gold – the effect is such that Myanmar literally glitters!

There is a wine-making industry in Myanmar producing Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Late Wine and Inle Valley White wines.

Myanmar people do not have surnames.

Mahabote is the Myanmar zodiac which is based on eight days of the week, with Wednesday split into two zodiac signs. Find out your animal sign at www.whats-your-sign.com/burmese-zodiac-animal-signs.html according to the day you were born!

No, their gums are not bleeding! Chewing betel nuts is a national pastime.

Men wear “skirts”. The traditional Myanmar dress is the longyi (or pasoe for men), a wraparound skirt worn by men and women. It’s completely acceptable for a foreigner to wear a longyi and can be a conversation starter!

In downtown Yangon, honking is prohibited.

The two most important Myanmar words you’ll want to know – Hello (min ga la ba), and Thank You (ce-zu tin-ba-deh)

The dried yellowish cosmetics Myanmar people wear is called Thanaka.

Myanmar is changing rapidly, so do visit soon!

Want to explore other countries?

ABOUT STEER

The NUS Study Trips for Engagement and EnRichment (STEER) programmes are designed to familiarise students with the diverse socio-cultural-political-economic environments of newly emerging markets, such as those in Asia (Vietnam, Myanmar, secondary cities in China and India), the Middle East (Gulf Co-operation Council states), and Latin America (Brazil, Chile, etc) through a mix of classroom-based learning and experiential site visits. These geographical areas represent important focal points of increasing diplomatic, trade and academic interests.

STEER are thematic programmes which aim to foster an exploratory mindset among students and to expose them to these emerging economies. Practically, they are preparatory programmes for students who might be keen to explore internships, pursue research projects and even future employment in these areas. Each group is kept to a reasonable size so that students have adequate opportunities to have meaningful interactions. Visit www.nus.edu.sg/io/opp/steerindex.html for more info.

Fun Facts on Myanmar

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Experience the World through our Special Programmes

Yale Visiting International Student Program (Y-VISP)

The Y-VISP was a journey that brought me through the most exciting and defining experiences of my life – from taking classes by world-renowned professors, to being part of the residential college community. Most importantly, I was able to pursue my passion in the performing arts by joining the Yale Glee Club and embarking on singing tours across the country. I have grown in ways unimaginable by being in constant interaction with motivated and bright students, and having access to the wide range of opportunities available at Yale.

Goh Wee Shian, one of Y-VISP’s pioneer participants

About Y-VISP

The Yale Visiting International Student Program (Y-VISP) is an honours programme at Yale University, designed for undergraduates from partner institutions to join the Yale undergraduate community for a full academic year (junior year).

Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) 2.0

We experienced a homestay programme in Shizuoka and learned many things through conversations with corporate leaders in Japan. The opportunity to visit both metropolitan Tokyo and the less populous countryside area of Shizuoka made it possible to experience various unique cultures of Japan.

Tay Yan Ning, Priscillia Seah and Sebastian Sim, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

About JENESYS 2.0

JENESYS 2.0 is a youth exchange programme launched by the government of Japan that aims to nurture friendship between Japan and invited countries. The programme also seeks to revitalise the Japanese economy through introduction of Japan’s attractions and by promoting international understanding on the nation’s potential strength, allure and values, including the “Cool Japan” concept.

Watch our new students’ video “Experience the World” to find out more about Wee Shian’s Y-VISP journey, and other NUS students who went on IRO’s special and short-term programmes here:

www.nus.edu.sg/iro/home/irovideos.html
**Life-changing Awards**

**Tan Mingwei Global Community Service Grant**

The award was created in memory of Tan Mingwei, who was a medical student at Cambridge University. Mingwei went on several volunteer trips overseas, such as Botswana and Nepal. She was greatly inspired by her trips and hence, this award is set up for the purpose of awarding grants that would allow students to be transformed like she was by the experience of meaningful community work in developing countries.

**Temasek Foundation Leadership Enrichment and Regional Networking (TF LEaRN) Programme @ NUS**

Generously funded by Temasek Foundation, the TF LEaRN Programme @ NUS aims to groom the next generation of Asian leaders. Students can participate in the programme in Semester 1 or 2 under the Student Exchange Programme to partner universities in Southeast Asia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, or under the NUS Overseas Colleges programme to Asia.

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**New SEP awards to China!**

To encourage more students to participate in SEP to Peking University and Tsinghua University, students can now apply for the NUS in Asia SEP Award. Successful applicants will receive S$8,000 for the award. Please refer to [http://nus.edu.sg/iro/financial/out/others/china-sep/index.html](http://nus.edu.sg/iro/financial/out/others/china-sep/index.html) for details.

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