

Overseas internships offer marketable experience

The Global Graduate Program has helped more than 200 University students study abroad

By Erin Snelgrove
Oregon Daily Emerald

Increasingly, employers throughout the United States are looking to hire people who have more than a college degree. They are seeking individuals who possess leadership skills, internships, and overseas experience.

Through the assistance of the Global Graduates International Internship program, juniors, seniors, and masters, who attend any college or university in Oregon, can

obtain these additional employment qualifications.

"The idea of this program is to give students in Oregon the opportunity to receive some professional experience overseas," said Kathy Poole, overseas program coordinator for the Office of International Education and Exchange. "Some of these internships pay, while others do not. In general, the internships that require greater skill or specialized knowledge are the ones likely to offer some form of financial stipend, while non-profit organizations and government organizations are unlikely to offer any kind of funding."

Beginning in 1996, the global graduates program was formed from a \$4 million federal grant.

The grant also made scholarships available for students who demonstrate financial need and want to participate in the program. However, because the grant is from the federal government, those who receive financial assistance must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

"I would say that most of the people who apply are considered eligible for a scholarship unless they tell us they don't need financial assistance," Poole said. "Almost every person that we've sent [overseas] has received some amount of funding."

Geary Buxton, an arts and administration graduate student, received a scholarship through the program last summer. Buxton believes this scholarship helped ease the financial burden of his experience.

"I interned with the Film Institute of Ireland in Dublin for 10 weeks," Buxton said. "I had a great experience there. I got to try something new and travel abroad for the first time. However, this experience was costly. I would say the cost of living in Ireland was about 40% more than it is here. With the aid I received, though, I was able to have some spending money, and I was also able to afford renting my own flat."

Since the program's formation, more than 430 students have received internships abroad and approximately 200 of those have been from the University of Oregon. These internships were either posted on web sites or created by the student. The internships can last anywhere from 10 weeks to six months in duration.

Shaun Wilde, a GTF working for

the OIEE, will receive an internship next summer through global graduates. For six months she will be working in a German consulting firm and participating on a financial or creative project. Wilde chose to become involved with this internship opportunity because of its built-in access to contacts and employment opportunities.

"One of the ways I looked at it was that it's a pretty big world out there and if you want to do something internationally, you don't always have the contacts to make that possible," Wilde said.

"But with this program, there are three regional directors who each have contacts in a different region of the world. They know the companies, and they try to match up the candidates for the internship that will best suit them. So really, this internship is a matching service in a lot of respects."

Nationally, the global graduates program was presented an Oregon Governor's Award for Excellence in Economic Development last October.

This award has been presented annually for the past six years and is bestowed to communities, businesses, organizations or individuals who "exemplify the mind-set necessary for Oregon to participate and compete effectively in the global economy."

Poole said it is unusual for higher education to be given this award.

"This award shows that the governor recognizes the purpose of this program is to give overseas experience to Oregon young professionals. Later, these young people can come back to Oregon and in-

For more information

WHAT: Global Graduates International Internship program
WHO: Juniors, seniors or master's students are eligible.
WHEN: Applications for summer are due March 1 and all posted or self-arranged internships are acceptable. Applications for fall are due April 1 and students can apply for posted internships only.
WHERE: Internships can be acquired on any continent.
WHY: Students can obtain professional experience while still in school, receive a better understanding of world affairs, form a competitive advantage for the job market and make professional contacts for a future career.


crease the economic development of this state by using the skills they learned abroad."

For students like Buxton this program offers an opportunity to learn unique skills that can be brought back to Oregon communities.

"After having an internship abroad, people come back with skills they might have not otherwise been able to receive," Buxton said. "It's important for people to break out of their cocoons to travel overseas and see the world. Later, they can come back home and help enrich Oregon's economy."

For more information about the Global Graduates International Internship program, contact Kathy Poole at 346-3207 or access the program's web site at http://www.orst.edu/dept/int_ed/global_grads.

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The number of university student volunteers for Peace Corps increases

A national funding increase will allow for more recruiting

By Teri Meeuwsen
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University was ranked ninth in the nation by the Peace Corps for its number of volunteers overseas.

The University recruited 58 volunteers, tying with two other colleges, Indiana University and Cornell University.

The University of Wisconsin topped the list with 116 volunteers, followed by the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Washington with 75.

"The UO consistently puts out many qualified volunteers," said University Peace Corps represen-

tative Fred Jaman.

Now the University may be able to offer even more help overseas through the Peace Corps, thanks to an 8 percent budget increase in national funding.

"The program's budget increase to \$240 million will allow the organization to sign up nearly 4,000 volunteers, including more from the University," said Dan Chang, the acting public affairs specialist for the Peace Corps Northwest regional office in Seattle.

"There is more money to recruit a little more vigorously to fill those spots," he said.

"Last year the University was recognized as a high contributor by the Peace Corps," he said. Around 2,000 volunteers have come from the University since

1961.

Currently, there are 6,700 volunteers working in 80 countries worldwide, and after this year they expect to have 7,100. This is the highest number of volunteers in the last 25 years.

Among smaller colleges — those with fewer than 5,000 undergraduates — three Oregon colleges were ranked in the top 25. Linfield College was ranked seventh, Lewis and Clark was ninth and Reed College was seventeenth.

"The Northwest has always been a big producer of volunteers," Chang said. "The feeling here in the Northwest is kind. They have a sense of adventure, volunteerism and community. People in the Northwest like the Peace Corps."

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