

# **GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER SUMMER INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

## **WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM?**

The International Internship Program, now in its twelfth year, is a coordinated effort of the Office of Career Services (OCS) and the Office of Public Interest and Community Service (OPICS) to provide opportunities for students to work in legal jobs abroad.

## **WHAT TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM?**

Students have had the opportunity to work in both large and small law firms, in the legal department of corporations, in public interest/human rights organizations, and in quasi-governmental settings.

## **WHERE ARE THE INTERNSHIPS LOCATED?**

Students have worked all over the globe – from Western and Eastern Europe, to Central and South America, Asia and Africa. During the summer of 2005, students interned in Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, England, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Mexico, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey.

## **WHEN WILL I KNOW WHICH ORGANIZATIONS ARE PARTICIPATING?**

A list of participating organizations providing internships for the following summer is available within a few days after students return from the December holiday break. A small number of international internships will be advertised in late November and resumes will be collected just prior to first semester final examinations. These “Early Deadline” opportunities generally are for internships requiring German, Italian, or Portuguese language skills which are less prevalent among students.

## **HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?**

After the list of participating organizations becomes available, students must first determine whether they can afford to accept the internship. Many of the internships are unpaid, and airfare and housing are the student’s responsibility. These important determinations must be thought out ahead of time. Students cannot accept an internship and later determine that it is financially impossible.

In early January the list of organizations and the hiring criteria used by those employers becomes available. After considering financial issues, the next decision will involve whether the student meets the qualifications sought by each sponsor of interest.

### **WILL I BE GUARANTEED AN INTERNSHIP?**

With a few exceptions, each organization selects one intern, and thus, if there are 100 employers, 100 students will have the opportunity to intern. Each year approximately 250 students submit resumes for the International Internship Program. Competitiveness varies greatly. Internships located in English speaking countries, as well as those that pay a good salary or stipend, receive the largest number of student bids and, as such, are very competitive. Alternatively, if you have a German, Italian or Portuguese language background you should be very competitive.

### **DO THESE POSITIONS PAY?**

About half of the intern sponsors provide some remuneration, however, it is most often a token amount of money, and may not even cover expenses. As you would expect, the public sector organizations do not pay and there are a number of the private firms that are not permitted to remunerate trainees. While the internship can present financial difficulties, students who have interned abroad have concluded that the experience was definitely worth it; they had extremely positive experiences.

*For more information, contact Marilyn Tucker,  
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