

PROPOSAL FOR NEW STUDY ABROAD or EXCHANGE PROGRAM
University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) Global Perspective Virtual Internship Program

RATIONALE:

The coronavirus pandemic has upended international education and student mobility in unprecedented ways. As such, the Center for International Education is exploring ways to provide international and experiential learning without a travel component. In examining options, we wanted to ensure that any opportunity augmented the UWEC experience and did not replicate on-campus instruction. The CIE also sought online or virtual experiences that would be available beyond the pandemic so that we were creating new options rather than temporary measures.

The online or virtual international internship is a wonderful opportunity born of the COVID-19 pandemic that compliments the UW-Eau Claire on-campus experience, supports our guideposts, and provides an international and intercultural experience for students who are unable easily travel abroad. An online internship also typifies the real context of international work that commonly occurs across time zones and online.

USAC offers virtual internship opportunities in the following career fields:

Career Field	Location(s)
Digital marketing and social media management:	Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India, Italy, Spain, Thailand, and Uruguay
Business	Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India, Italy, Spain, Thailand, and Uruguay
Engineering	Germany and Brazil
Translation	Brazil, China, and Spain
Social welfare	Ghana, India, Thailand, and Uruguay
English language instruction	Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Italy, Thailand, and Uruguay
Journalism	China, Czech Republic, and France
Grant-writing/Crowd Funding	Czech Republic, Ghana, and India
Research	Czech Republic, Italy, and Thailand
Health/Wellness	Italy and Thailand
Computer Science/IT	Ghana and India
Graphic design/3-D modelling	India and Italy
Human resources	India

For more detailed information on potential work responsibilities for each career field, please visit: <https://usac.edu/study-abroad-programs/global-perspectives/virtual-internship/courses/2021/spring>.

USAC is developing an in-person internship program so this program may evolve to include both virtual and in-person internships.

ENROLLMENT LIMITS: None, if students meet eligibility requirements and are flexible with internship placement, if applicable.

ACADEMIC LOGISTICS:

- **Can UW-Eau Claire accept credit from this program? What other UW System colleges/universities or U.S. universities are accepting credit from the host institution?** Yes.
- **How are grades reported?** Grades are reported on an official USAC grade report.
- **What language is used on the above document? If not English, what resources are required for an English translation?** English
- **What credit system is used and how does it translate into U.S. credits?** All students earn U.S. credit. The virtual internship is three credits; students complete 15 hours seminar along with minimum 120-135 of work hours, which largely occur during U.S. working hours.
- **How is course level determined?** Course level is determined by USAC and has been designated a 300-level course.
- **What grade scale is used and what is the conversion to UWEC grades?** Grades are reported using the standard A-F scale with plus and minus designations.

PLACEMENT PROCESS:

Students are required to undergo an interview with USAC internship coordinator and worksite supervisor to be accepted and placed into an internship. Once placed, students will sign an internship contract that outlines work schedule and work responsibilities.

CURRICULUM and SUPERVISION

USAC provides the following description and objectives in the course syllabus:

USAC skills-based internships abroad are designed to complement a student's program of study while providing a structured work or field experience under the direction of a professional supervisor and with the oversight and support of an on-site USAC internship coordinator.

USAC internships facilitate the academic and professional development of students through:

- 1) the practical application of knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to a professional work environment.*
- 2) the further development of practical competencies essential to the ongoing work of the placement site.*
- 3) the cultivation of a network of professional contacts.*

USAC internships will expose students to the workplace culture, norms, and expectations of their respective placement site and host country, deepening cross-cultural understanding and helping students develop intercultural communication and language skills in an internationally focused organization or other professional work setting.

Through the consistent participation in the processes and practices of a professional field, students will acquire a working knowledge of that field and will apply that learning to their own career and academic choices and goals.

The internship seminar with USAC faculty member will cover the following topics:

- professional identity
- personal branding
- organizational frameworks
- organizational culture
- organizations across culture
- leadership across culture
- finding your calling
- your authentic self

On-site supervisor will provide feedback to the USAC internship coordinator regarding student's performance; supervisor feedback will be factored into student's grade. Additionally, students will complete written work for the internship seminar.

EXPECTED UWEC EQUIVALENCY: IDIS 398 International Internships

HOUSING: N/A, students will live in U.S. housing.

CALENDAR:

Spring 2021: January 18-May 7, 2021

Summer 2021: exact dates TBD, June to early August 2021

Fall 2021: exact dates TBD, September to mid-December 2021

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Good academic, conduct, financial standing
- 3.0 GPA
- May apply as a first-year student but must have sophomore standing by start of program
- A successful personal interview is required
- Most internship placement have no language required except English with the following exceptions:
 - Placements in Spanish-speaking countries require Spanish language
 - All translation placements have language requirements.

FOREIGN CULTURE REQUIREMENT:

No foreign culture can be earned.

LIBERAL EDUCATION CORE:

N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Spring 2021