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IAESTE: A GLOBAL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Creating opportunities for students worldwide

INFORMATION FOR ACADEMIC STAFF





Work experience abroad

IAESTE (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) is a student exchange organisation with over 80 member countries worldwide. It provides degree-level students of science, engineering, technology and the applied arts with paid, course-related, technical training abroad and promotes international understanding and goodwill among students of all nations. Since it was founded at Imperial College in 1948, IAESTE has exchanged more than 330,000 students; over 23,000 of these have travelled from the UK, often as the first step in an international career. With 60 years of experience in arranging international placements for young scientists, engineers and architects, IAESTE UK can assist your students in finding valuable work experience abroad.

Contents

This booklet is divided into two sections.

Section 1: Promoting IAESTE to your UK students

Section 2: Offering a placement in your department to an incoming trainee

In short IAESTE gave me the chance of a lifetime and opened my eyes to both engineering knowledge and the Middle East, and, of course, Oman in particular. I have memories that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Peter Boyce, Civil Engineering,
University of Wales, Swansea

This trip has highlighted an area of work I wish to explore – environmental issues aimed at improving living standards. I am so glad to have had this opportunity, which has ultimately resulted in a change in my life goal.

Joseph Shields, Environmental Science,
University of Ulster at Jordanstown, on his
placement in Tajikistan

Section 1: Promoting IAESTE to your UK students

What does IAESTE offer?

- Work experience available in over 80 countries, primarily in the summer months
- Placements for undergraduates in science, engineering, technology and architecture
- Course-related work in industry, research institutions, and the public sector
- Salaries to cover the local cost of living
- Assistance with work permits, visas and accommodation
- Organised social activities in most countries
- Practical guidance through nomination and acceptance procedures
- Assistance with work permits, visas and accommodation
- The opportunity to enter the IAESTE UK Regional Trainee of the Year Award

Benefits to your students

- Unique international experience to show prospective employers
- Value added to professional, technical or research experience
- Increased cultural awareness
- A new/renewed interest in developing linguistic skills
- Proven flexibility and adaptability to an unfamiliar environment
- Personal development as they meet the challenges of living abroad
- Renewed enthusiasm and focus on their studies

Contact IAESTE UK for promotional materials

- Send the IAESTE html initial registration e-mail to your students in October
- Display posters and distribute IAESTE leaflets around the department
- Encourage students who are in their second year or above to apply



Cross-section of placements for UK students, June to September 2009

Subject studied	Employer	Workplace	Country
Aeronautical Engineering	Test-Fuchs, Ing. Fritz FuchsGes.m.b.H	Gross-Siegharts	Austria
Architecture	A.Asadov architectural studio	Moscow	Russia
	Joao de Paula Arquitetura	Belo Horizonte	Brazil
	MCXVI Architects	Budapest	Hungary
	SCG Ltd	Birkirkara	Malta
Biochemistry	Institute of Chemical Technology, Prague	Prague	Czech Republic
Biology	Universidad San Francisco de Quito	San Cristobal-Galapagos	Ecuador
	Dept. of Applied Biology & Chemical Technology, Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Kowloon	Hong Kong
	Medilab Diagnostics Services	Kumasi	Ghana
Chemical Engineering	VISY Technical Centre	Melbourne	Australia
Chemistry	Pharmaceutical Faculty, Copenhagen University	Copenhagen	Denmark
	Center for Molecular & Macromolecular Studies PAS	Lodz	Poland
	Ministry of Transportation	Kingston	Canada
Civil Engineering	Central Asia Office ACTED	Murgab	Tajikistan
	Al Hamad Construction & Development Co.	Amman	Jordan
	INTERMASS Contracting & Engineering	Dubai	United Arab Emirates
	The Open University of Tanzania, Institute of Educational Technology	Dar es Salaam	Tanzania
Electrical Engineering	Centaurea Oy	Hyllykallio	Finland
Food Technology	Nestle Suisse S.A.	Vevey VD/Basel. Canton VD	Switzerland
Material Science	Jozef Stefan Institute	Ljubljana	Slovenia
Mathematics	National Technical University of Ukraine	Kiev	Ukraine
Mathematics and Physics	University of NIS-PIF	Nis	Serbia
Mechanical Engineering	Alimatic S.L.	Barcelona	Spain
	Sierra Rutile Mines	Moriba Town	Sierra Leone
	Thai Nguyen University of Technology (TNUT)	Thai Nguyen City	Vietnam
	Toyota Motor Europe	Brussels	Belgium
Naval Engineering	Mediterranean Shipping Agency	Tunis	Tunisia
Oceanography	Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, Dept of Earth Science, University of Bergen	Bergen	Norway
Pharmacy	University of Cyril and Methodius	Skopje	Macedonia
Physics	Harbin Institute of Technology	Harbin	China
	Paul Scherrer Institut	Villigen	Switzerland
	Institute of Nuclear Physics	Almaty	Kazakhstan
	Manipal Institute of Technology	Manipal	India (MIT)
Zoology	Universidad del Quindio	Armenia, Quindio	Colombia

Well organised, well planned. IAESTE took excellent care of the students, provided support and took an interest in their progress and overall welfare through their stay.

Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences,
University of Glasgow

I'm so grateful to have been given this opportunity. It was fantastic. The things I have learned, the places I have visited and the people I have met, I will never forget. It has motivated me for university.

Rosa Uchima, Product Design, University of Glasgow,
on her placement in Mexico

Case study: Thomas Marshall

Degree: Physics (with Astrophysics)
Queen's University Belfast

Placement: Astrophysics and Supercomputing –
'The Simulation of Globular Star Clusters Using GPUs'

Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
June to September 2008

Why did you choose IAESTE?

After hearing so many positive stories from previous trainees, a placement provided by IAESTE would help me discover and learn about a completely different culture, and the placements were high quality. IAESTE was most helpful; they provided the relevant information and advice, which meant everything was arranged quickly.

Impressions of your work experience?

During my ten weeks at Swinburne I met a number of people in various areas of astrophysics and supercomputing, which really gave me a taste for what working in a research environment would be like. Not only did I learn about the projects of others but I worked on my own project for which I needed to learn many new and interesting things.

Describe a situation/anecdote that sums up the whole experience

A situation that sums up my experience was during my field trip to the Parkes Observatory. On the second day I was invited to climb to the receiver cabin, 200ft high, above the dish of the Radio Telescope. This was the epitome of an IAESTE placement – it was new, it was exciting and I was learning new skills in a team of people from around the world.

How have you benefited from the experience?

Professionally: I had always known that international work experience would be beneficial – it wasn't until I completed my placement that I realised just how advantageous my time abroad had been. Professionally I have gained numerous contacts in the field of astrophysics; I have also obtained skills that are directly applicable to my course and possibly my career. I have gained an insight into the world of astronomy that I never could have dreamed of before hearing about IAESTE.

Personally: I feel that I have grown into a much more confident, independent and mature person after my experiences. My time away from home has given me time to put my life, career and course into a new perspective – I have had time to consider my career options and I look forward to returning to university as a much more focused and determined version of my old self.





Case study: University of Strathclyde

Barbara Graham, Director Careers Service, comments on the IAESTE programme. The University of Strathclyde's Careers Service recommends the IAESTE exchange programme to our science and engineering students as a superb means of enhancing both their relevant technical work experience and their cross-cultural awareness. Students who have benefited from a placement through IAESTE are the best ambassadors for the programme. On their return they display a noticeable increase in confidence and they have accumulated a range of experiences, which they can use to demonstrate to employers their transferable skills, flexibility and ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds.

So keen have Strathclyde students been after returning from placements that they have established, on their own initiative, a local IAESTE student committee to publicise these opportunities to other students and to welcome students from overseas who come to Strathclyde on placement. This local committee was the first of its kind in the UK when it was set up in 2006 and continues to grow, making Glasgow a popular destination on the IAESTE map. The students, working across the different institutions in Glasgow, have helped to set up and develop similar committees in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Belfast and even as far afield as Belgium and Australia. This speaks volumes about how much they value IAESTE and want to spread the good news to others.

The organisation of the programme is excellent, run by highly professional coordinators, who keep us well informed about all aspects of the scheme and in whom we have complete confidence. Working together, we have seen a significant increase in our students going overseas and the number of students for whom placements have been arranged here at Strathclyde.



The IAESTE Local Committees in Scotland are twinned with IAESTE LC Zurich and hosted a training event for both committees in Edinburgh, in May 2009.

I enjoyed my placement so much that I successfully stood to be President of the Glasgow Local Committee. I hope to encourage more students to take part in what is definitely one of the best work abroad experiences available.

Magnus Currie, Civil Engineer at Strathclyde University, on his placement in Finland

A fun, interesting, thought-provoking and very valuable experience. Good engineering experience; a huge benefit to my language skills; it made me think a lot about future plans.

Stephen Jones, Civil Engineering, Cambridge University, on his placement in Portugal

Important dates

- The registration deadline for all UK students is 10 December
- Departments making reciprocal offers of training need to do so by mid-January at the very latest in time for the annual IAESTE conference
- Late January: the annual IAESTE exchange conference takes place after which your students will be contacted about available placements
- February – March: nominations made for specific placements; one student is selected per job; the same applies to any incoming nominations
- April – May: acceptances received from participating employers
- June onwards: placements begin

The IAESTE UK Regional Trainee of the Year Awards

In November 2010 IAESTE UK will be holding three regional awards events – in Belfast, London and Edinburgh – for participating students from universities in Northern Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland respectively.

All entrants are initially required to submit a written report on their experiences abroad as trainees on the IAESTE programme. The eight finalists at each of the regional awards will make a short presentation on their IAESTE training abroad before a panel of judges and select audience.

These placements constitute a first step towards employment in the global economy and the feedback at the awards focuses on the students' impressions, their accounts of what they learned and what they achieved, and how their experiences abroad have affected their chosen career paths. The Regional Trainee of the Year first prize-winner receives a cheque for £500, the second prize is £250, third is £100 and the audience's choice is £60 (vouchers of student's choice).

The prospect of participating in the IAESTE UK Regional Trainee of the Year Award encourages students to take a proactive role in managing their placements overseas in order to gain the maximum benefit. IAESTE UK encourages them to record progress by means of a Personal Development Profile. We hope academic staff will both encourage students to enter and support the finalists in their preparations. If you require any further information or would like to request an invitation please contact IAESTE UK.



Section 2: Offering a placement in your department to an incoming trainee

Become an IAESTE employer

The IAESTE programme is run on an exchange basis. For every placement raised in the UK for a foreign student we are able to place a UK student abroad. University departments may increase the number of their students who participate in IAESTE by making reciprocal offers for foreign trainees. Proven corollary benefits include the recruitment of high-calibre students from abroad for postgraduate studies and the development of new contacts in higher education institutions in other countries.

How IAESTE works

- The programme is employer-led in that placements are set up according to your requirements laid out in a detailed Offer of Training form
- Offers of training should ideally be made in time for the annual IAESTE Conference in mid-January for placements to start in the summer months
- Placements can be for six weeks or longer and the trainee should be paid a net allowance of at least £210 a week in accordance with the minimum wage
- Stringent selection procedures both in the UK and in the students' home countries ensure that employers receive a high-calibre trainee; the UK is a prized destination so we tend to receive the best

What should I do now?

Please contact IAESTE UK for further information on how to source international placement students for your department and to obtain Offer of Training forms. Alternatively you may wish to put us in touch with industrial contacts who could offer reciprocal placements on behalf of your students. The next two pages feature case studies of universities that participate in the programme as IAESTE employers.

Judita has been a tremendous asset to the school. She is perhaps the best IAESTE student I have worked with. Over some ten years the quality and motivation of the students has been excellent.

School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering, Queen's University Belfast, on their incoming IAESTE trainee from Croatia

The quality of the students and their enthusiasm makes participation in the programme both rewarding and enjoyable.

University of Southampton

Case study: School of Mechanical Engineering, University of Leeds

Three IAESTE students – Eduardo, Tressia and Lukasz – were on placements of between six to ten weeks, in the School of Mechanical Engineering, University of Leeds, in the months July to September 2009.

Dr Tomasz Liskiewicz, RCUK Research Fellow, School of Mechanical Engineering comments on the IAESTE programme:

Tomasz, how did you first come across the IAESTE scheme?

I was an IAESTE trainee myself for ten weeks at a general engineering plant in Sweden during my degree. This gave me invaluable experience in a workshop environment in a big company. The competition for a placement was high so I know that IAESTE students are going to be the best students.

Why did you decide to become an employer of IAESTE trainees?

I knew that I would receive motivated, enthusiastic students. We pay the IAESTE students the same wage as the UK summer research students that we have and they can all interact. From experience, I know it's hard to get a placement.

What support do you receive from IAESTE UK?

A lot of support. It's really easy for us just to fill in the offer form and welcome the students. It's very efficient for us.

What are the main advantages of having the trainees?

Real curiosity, openness and keenness about the School's research activity because they are external to the School. It is such a mixture too – Lebanon, Poland and Brazil. Eduardo is already thinking about doing a Master's here. It's also the human factor: meeting people from a different background with a different perspective, which is fantastic.





The strength of IAESTE has been to remain one of the most valuable mechanisms for obtaining diverse training opportunities around the globe for undergraduates.

Imperial College London

Eduardo, Tressia and Lukasz, how do you feel the work you are doing has benefited your studies?

Lukasz: Bingo! I can't believe it. This is the perfect match.

Tressia: I am doing research-based engineering management work on a revolutionary problem-solving method, which is great for my interest in that area.

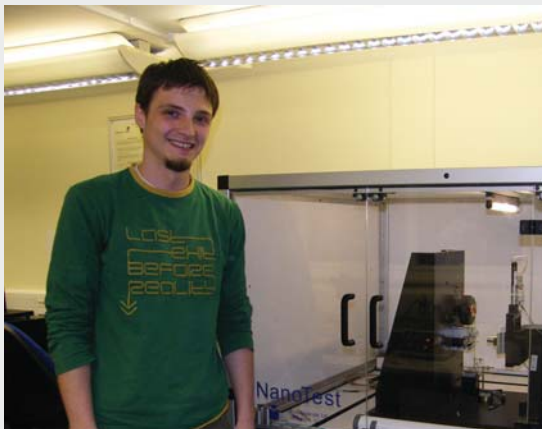
Eduardo: I wish to pursue an academic research career and would like to write a research paper after my placement here. In Brazil I wrote my thesis on control engineering and now this laboratory placement is giving me experience in materials so I can decide on the direction I will take.

What have you gained from this experience?

Lukasz: This is my first internship abroad. I feel very good because I am on my own. I can't believe how good a grounding this will give me to finish my degree in Poland. Also experience of the different, less formal teaching style here.

Eduardo: My professors all spoke so highly of Leeds' School of Mechanical Engineering so I am really excited to be here. It is my first visit to the UK too. The weather was a bit of a shock but it's a good temperature for working.

Tressia: I know that I can adapt in any situation now. Also I hope that I am giving something back by working on this new project.





Case study: School of Environmental Engineering, University of Edinburgh

Two IAESTE students – Monica and Prince – were on placements of eight and nine weeks, in the School of Environmental Engineering, University of Edinburgh, in the months June to August 2009. The students were supervised by Dr Miklas Scholz, Lecturer in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Miklas, please can you tell us about the project you're working on?

Miklas: We are looking at measures to reduce the risk of flooding in Scotland. Because of climate change the risk of flooding is ever increasing; one of the methods to address this is to look at sustainable flood retention basins. These would contain excess rain water, which would have the potential to flood otherwise.

Monica and Prince, is this similar to things you've done before?

Prince: In Ghana there are very different problems with rainfall and how it affects social development. At home I have learned about aquifers and aqueducts, but in Ghana we only see them in books. I will go back with a very different approach to my studies. I'm thinking about doing a Master's here now.

Monica: There is a very different approach to water management in Canada, so to come here and see a different perspective is really good. And I absolutely love the field work – to be able to drive up to a loch and take pictures, and evaluate – it is amazing.

What cultural benefits do you think IAESTE brings?

Prince: Really, we are bringing the world together – we meet so many different people from so many different countries. Back home, we always say that the youth are the future.

Monica: We'll discuss how we approach different issues in different countries and it really helps you learn about your own ways of working.

Miklas, you've had IAESTE students for several years now.

What benefits do they bring?

Miklas: The great benefit here is that they're doing a lot of field work. At an absolute minimum, we have an extra pair of hands; extra support in terms of labour. On top of this, these students are good students, and they do a lot more than just being a pair of hands – they are involved in writing papers or manuals, applying new software, or analysing data. Often with other exchange projects the students come here just for a holiday, to see the country. We don't have this problem with IAESTE – perhaps because I think IAESTE is very competitive, the students really get involved. It is basically a win-win situation.

