

# Directions

N° 9 - November 2009

Dear IAESTE Alumni

We're pleased to welcome you back to **Directions**, the newsletter for the IAESTE UK Alumni group.

The programme is continuing to grow here in the UK, and last summer we sent 211 students overseas on placements and received a similar number of foreign trainees on placements here.

We are keen to hear from you and find out about where and when you were an IAESTE trainee. We'd also love to know what our ex-trainees are doing now, especially if this was influenced by your experience of the IAESTE programme. We'd like to feature stories from you in future editions of **Directions** and set up an Alumni gallery on our website. So if you've got something to share, do get in touch.

This year, we'll be holding an IAESTE Alumni Christmas get-together on 14th December at the British Council in London and are keen to meet many of you there! We've enclosed an invitation.

Perhaps you're in a position to offer a placement in your company to a resourceful and enterprising foreign trainee? We are always seeking to expand the programme and make opportunities available in as many different fields as possible across the UK. See details of how to get involved overleaf.

Finally, we'd like to make sure we have your up-to-date contact details, so we've enclosed a form for you to fill in if anything's changed.

Hazel Bober, IAESTE UK

The IAESTE UK Alumni Newsletter

## *The employer's perspective*

Alloy recycling leaders Caledonian Alloys have been employing IAESTE students for three years. Global engineering manager John McCabe tells us about his most recent trainee, Matthew Theisen from the University of Minnesota in the USA.

### *How is Matthew getting on?*

We have a fantastic relationship. Matt's keen to work and has no problems pulling on the overalls and getting out on the shop floor. His background was exactly what we were looking for and he's bursting with enthusiasm and ideas.

### *What kind of work has he been doing?*

He's been looking at ways of optimising our solvent recovery equipment. He's carried out testing and performance procedures on our degreaser distillation unit and recovery plant. From this work he's been able to implement changes in operation and maximise recovery from



## What do IAESTE students bring to your workplace?

As well as the individual projects they also get involved in day-to-day stuff like sourcing equipment, purchasing spares and getting quotes. The key benefit for us is the fresh approach they bring as they do think outside the box. Matt's a real thinker - he researches something and comes back. He's suprised me with questions. I should have known he was smarter than the average bear! We keep in touch with the students once they've returned home and

**“The key benefit is the fresh approach they bring”**

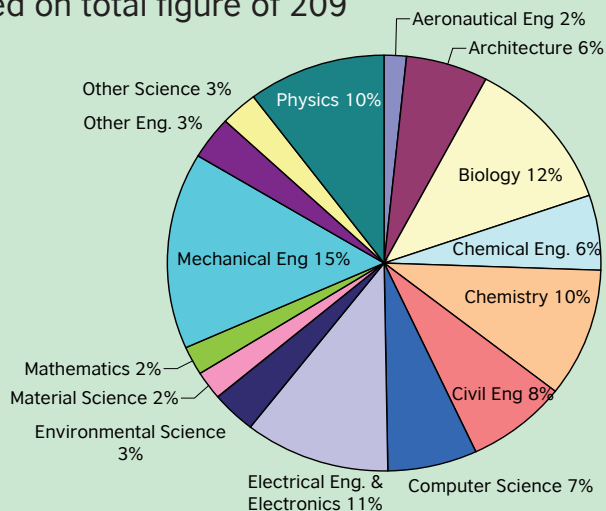


we're always looking for bright people to put in charge of things.

*Matthew embraces the steep learning curve, left and with employer John on previous page*

## 2009 in statistics

Incoming students by subject field based on total figure of 209



Top 5 destinations for UK students in 2009

- Poland
- Switzerland
- Germany
- China
- Brazil

Top 5 subject fields for UK students in 2009

- Civil Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Architecture
- Physics
- Chemistry

## Could you give someone else the same once-in-a-lifetime experience you had?

As you know from being one yourself, IAESTE students are highly motivated and bring innovation and an international perspective to the workplace. Did you know....

- IAESTE takes care of all administration
- The only cost to you is their salary - equivalent to at least the minimum wage (£210 per week)
- For every UK placement, we send a UK student overseas, so you'll be supporting both home and international students
- Placements are usually six to 12 weeks in the summer

If you're interested, your local team would be delighted to hear from you - do give us a call;

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You can also find out more about employing an IAESTE student and read case studies on our website:

[www.iaeste.org.uk/p/employers](http://www.iaeste.org.uk/p/employers)



**BRITISH COUNCIL**