

## Type of Experience INTERNSHIP

### Title of the Program – International Co-op Program (ICP)

#### Program Description

Through the International Co-op Program (ICP), the University of Cincinnati offers comprehensive language and culture preparation combined with a two-semester co-op assignment abroad. Programs are offered in German, Japanese, and Spanish. All co-op students are eligible to participate, but the program was created in the College of Engineering and the majority of students are engineers. The structure of the program is:

- Orientation to International Co-op, a course designed to create realistic expectations about living and working abroad – 15 hours.
- A series of language/culture courses consisting of: 1) Six-week summer intensive - 180 classroom hours; 2) Traditional fall course – 30 hours; 3) Optional two-week spring intensive overseas – 60 hours.
- Students' choice of a complimentary elective
- Eight months working in a discipline-related job overseas.
- E-portfolio describing the international experience.
- Reflection meeting on return.
- Promotion of the experience to other students.

**Program Highlights** Students are well-prepared to work abroad with: 1) over 250 hours of language/ culture instruction; 2) one year of discipline-related work experience; 3) an understanding of the new culture; 4) the ability to appreciate cultural differences.

Just six months after beginning to study the new language, they are placed in a professional environment where they work with other engineers and succeed in their new language. For many students this is their first time outside the US. They are often the only UC student in the city in which they are working.

#### Tips for Replication

- Identify your strengths and constraints.
- Choose a model that fits within your constraints and utilizes your strengths.
- Strive for shared ownership in the development stage.
- Offer something of value to potential employers.
- Use students to effectively promote your program.

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Website:

<http://www.uc.edu/careereducation/experience-based-learning/international-experiences/international-co-op-icp-.html>



#### Program Details

- Tenure of the program:
  - The program began in the College of Engineering in the early 1990's. The first class worked abroad in 1993 and graduated in 1994. The group beginning intensive language this summer is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ICP class.
- Participation rates (annual):
  - Six to eight percent.
- Target population:
  - Fourth-year students (from a five-year program) from all disciplines of engineering.
- Duration of experience:
  - Six months intensive language study + eight months co-op abroad.
- Engineering related?
  - All co-op work is discipline-related.
- Course credit?
  - Students earn credit for the language classes and co-op credit for the co-op work experience. By taking additional coursework, a language minor is also an option.
- Service component?
  - No.
- Reflection component?
  - Yes.



**Hallmarks  
Of  
Success**



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Collaborative Research: Assessing the Spectrum of International Undergraduate Engineering Educational Experiences