



Learning Abroad Center

Internship Preference & Academic Information

Minnesota Studies in International Development

The information on this form will assist on-site staff to prepare your MSID academic programs.

Academic Information

Name _____

MSID Country _____ US Home Institution _____

Term you will be studying abroad: Academic Year _____ Fall _____ Spring _____

1. List any development and research methodology courses you will have completed prior to the start of your MSID program.

2. List any language courses/training you have had for the language used in your MSID country (number of semesters).

a. Spanish (Ecuador) _____ b. Hindi (India) _____ c. Swahili (Kenya) _____ d. Wolof (Senegal) _____ e. French (Senegal) _____

Development Course Track

The International Development course begins with common classes, then divides into sections by topic. Identify the section that you would like to pursue. You should think about the kind of academic specialization you feel is needed most to prepare for an internship in your desired area. You will not know your exact internship placement until you arrive in your MSID country. You may sit in on other sections, but this will depend on your course schedule and the on-site academic structure.

Mark below the section you wish to select for the International Development course:

- Education/Literacy:** looks at the role of education in the MSID country, who is being educated, steps taken to reach out to people in poverty, and the policies and philosophy that affect education. Internships focus on of education and outreach.
- Environmental Studies/Ecology and Sustainable Agriculture:** investigates the relationship between the environment and the lives of people in your MSID country. Topics include deforestation, wildlife management, sustainable food sources, climate change. Internships focus on the relationship between local people and these themes.
- Microbusiness/Alternative Economies:** examines business practices on a local level, including organic farms, market, small business practices, economies, and home-based industries. Internships focus on understanding these topics on a local level.
- Public Health:** examines health care systems, women's health, children's health, HIV education, rural vs. urban health care facilities, and general philosophical approaches to health care in the MSID country. Internships can include clinics, outreach centers, education programs focusing on health.
- Social Service** (poverty, homelessness, family welfare, housing): examines how the MSID country wrestles with the poorest members of its community both in terms of government policies and in local grassroots efforts in individual communities. Internships can include working with outreach organizations for the homeless, family welfare education, and grassroots organizations that address the needs of poor working families. This section is merged with the following sections for each MSID country: Microbusiness/Alternative Economics for Ecuador, Education/Literacy for India, Environmental Studies for Kenya, and Public Health for Senegal.
- Arts and Cultural Studies** (includes literature for all MSID sites, except Senegal): examines indigenous art, music, and literature and its role in understanding development in your MSID country. Internships focus on art, music and/or literary organizations or activities that contribute to the lives of the people.
- Literature** (Senegal ONLY): a special section just focusing on Senegalese literature is offered to meet the needs of French majors and minors desiring a literature focus. It looks at Senegalese culture from the perspective of literary works. Non-French majors and minors are welcome to enroll as well.

Internship Preference

MSID will take into consideration your interests, but a perfect match is not always possible and it is important to be flexible. Remember that any internship must meet the needs of the agency/program as well as your own. MSID internships are with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). MSID does not place students in embassies, banks, or other large institutional or profit-earning settings.

1. Describe your ideal internship. Include as much detail as possible about your interests, goals, and preferences.

2. Describe past experience and skills you will bring to the internship.

3. Would you prefer an internship in a large city, a smaller town or city, or a rural area? Why? How strong is your preference?

4. Will this internship fulfill major/minor credits in your field of study? Yes ____ No ____

5. Are there specific academic requirements to keep in mind while placing you (i.e. French major requires French-speaking internship placement)?

Note: French majors or minors on the MSID Senegal program should clearly state if they need their internship to be in a French-speaking location in order to receive credit in the US for their internship experience.

For academic year participants:

6. Do you have any specific internship or research goals for your second semester experience that the MSID staff should keep in mind?

Learning Abroad Center

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