

MISTI

MIT International
Science and Technology Initiatives

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MISTI International Internships

- Since 1983, MISTI has placed more than 2000 students into companies and labs from Beijing to Berlin
- Current country programs: China, Japan, India, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Mexico
- All programs are open to undergraduates, graduates, and recent alumni from all areas of study
- Training in the language and culture of the host country precedes stay abroad
- All expenses paid



Modes of International Learning

- Internships
- Study Abroad
- Research Abroad
- Service Learning

Overall Institutional Constraints

- Barriers between academic units and programs
 - Do you know your colleagues and academic programs in other schools?
- International education is not seen as an important component of curriculum
 - Find out more about educational strategy of your institution
 - Argue with success stories

Overall Institutional Constraints

- Difficult access and costs for students to engage in international opportunities
 - Work closely with financial aid office and become aware of funding structures (e.g. stipends, grants) for students
- Diffuse understanding of international education
 - Find out how international programs can help not only students but also faculty and administration

Modes of Learning: Internships

Constraints:

- Building up host network
- Duration of internship: Hosts prefer longer stays, students prefer shorter stays
- Internships are not credit bearing
- Lack of language proficiency
- Funding
- Assessment structures: What defines a good internship?

Modes of Learning: Study Abroad

Constraints:

- Lack of appropriate existing study abroad programs for engineers and scientists
- Curricular constraints for engineering and science students
- Financial, e.g. Can you transfer your financial aid to a study abroad program?



Modes of Learning: Research Abroad

- Relatively new type of international activity, but potentially extremely rewarding

Constraints:

- Works only in close cooperation with dedicated faculty member
- Needs trusting relationship with host institution
- Occasional problems with intellectual property

Modes of Learning: Service Learning

Constraints:

- Usually requires funds external to project
- Reliable host is essential
- Assessment structures not sufficient at this point
- Service Learning often takes place in developing countries; constraints arising from lack of infrastructure in those countries

Levels of Activities

Low-entry Activities

- e.g. German or Spanish I course during IAP;
Workshops Abroad

Medium-entry Activities

- e.g. OCW, I-Lab Initiatives

High-entry Activities

- e.g. Internships with Language Requirement