INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS IN AGRICULTURE

OHIO INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INTERN PROGRAM



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

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OBJECTIVES

Program participants and their hosts will have the opportunity to pursue three main objectives while participating:

- To experience on-the- job agribusiness training while living and working with American counterparts.
- To have cross-cultural experiences, understandings, and friendships
- To become acquainted with American culture, traditions, and the English language.

TOP is a foreign and domestic international student/recent graduate exchange program sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. Since the program began in 1979, more than 11,000 young international and domestic agriculture and horticulture interns and trainees have participated.

OSU is not only the land-grant institution for Ohio, but it is also the flagship of the state's higher education system. In addition, it is the only institution in Ohio that offers bachelors degrees and advanced degrees in agriculture and natural resources.

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"Bringing the **Green** World Together!"





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WHY DOES THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE MATTER?



If you are serious about your career, you have to have international experience in the globalized market of today. Today's employers require professional experience from job applicants. If you have not gained much practical experience during college, a quality internship may be your best option.

According to a report issued by the European Commission, "[...] 64% of employers consider an international experience as important for recruitment of new employees. On average, 92% of employers are looking for transversal skills such as openness to and curiosity about new challenges, problem-solving and decision-making skills, confidence, tolerance towards other personal values and behaviors."

Living abroad will dramatically boost your confidence, maturity, global awareness and general "readiness for life". Here at TOP, we see these changes every day when meeting new participants during our orientation session and later seeing them again during our on-site visit.

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QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY

Applicants should be enrolled in agricultural universities or colleges, or have recently graduated and have a minimum of 6 to 12 months of post-high school agricultural/ horticultural practical experience in their home countries. Applicants who have no college education in their field of interest must have five years of relevant practical experience.

Applicants should be unmarried with a good command of English. Applications are accepted year-round. However, many placements follow the seasonality of the agricultural year.

TOP applications are available online to pre-approved candidates. Each applicant must include two letters of recommendation along with school transcripts or certificates. An in-depth interview with TOP staff and prospective host employer will follow.



Emphasis is placed on incorporating the intern into family, community activities and agricultural meetings or gatherings.

PARTICIPATION

Placements begin year around but more than 75 percent of participants arrive between January and May. Interns/trainees complete 6-12 months of on-the-job training at a farm, horticulture enterprise, golf course or agribusiness.

Participants are encouraged to remain with one host through the growing season to obtain a complete view of the operation. This full cycle is an important part of the intern's practical experience.



PLACEMENT OPTIONS

- **AGRICULTURE –** Crop farms and machinery operations, swine, dairy and mixed crop / beef farms throughout the USA.
- **HORTICULTURE & LANDSCAPING –** Garden centers, wholesale and retail nurseries, greenhouse operations, vegetable production, landscaping and cut flower production.
- **ENOLOGY** – Grape production and winemaking.
- **EQUINE –** Racing stables and breeding.
- **FLORISTRY –** Retail floristry and floral design.
- **FOOD PROCESSING –** Cheese-making and milk-processing on farms.
- **TURFGRASS –** Golf course management and turf maintenance placements throughout the USA.
- **APPLIED RESEARCH –** Crop protection and seed production.

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is often called the friendliest college on campus, largely because of the many activities and opportunities offered to its students. The faculty are on the cutting edge of science and technology. They are involved in seeking new knowledge as well as making it available to people on the farm, in the home, in industry, and in their communities.







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THE OHIO PROGRAM (TOP)

CAMPUS

The OSU campus is a city unto itself. OSU has its own police, mail, long distance telephone and electrical generating systems, and even its own zip code.

To those seeking a wealth of opportunities, richness of choices, diversity in people, and a chance to explore the world and their own potential in a stimulating and challenging environment, Ohio State's size (60,000+ students) is one of its greatest strengths. The multitude of options makes flexibility possible.



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