

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES INTERNSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions -For Organizations

It is our privilege to partner with you in equipping students for intercultural service, leadership, and discipleship. We depend on organizations like you to provide ministry opportunities that enhance what we teach in the classroom. For more details, please contact bryan.born@columbiabc.edu

What is the minimum length of an internship?

The CBC internship in Intercultural Studies (ICS) must take place in an intercultural setting for a minimum of 4-8 months (may include time for orientation, training and debrief in North America).

Do internships need to be located internationally?

Not necessarily. The internship must take place in a cultural environment that is significantly different than the culture in which the student grew up. Specific locations are approved on a case-by-case basis. Some of our interns have worked on Native Reserves in Canada, in multi-cultural, urban Canadian settings, and with the marginalized in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

What does CBC expect students to do during the time?

We recognize that ministry opportunities vary, and life is unpredictable. With that in mind, the ideal week for interns would include the equivalent of a 4-day work week. This keeps them from feeling isolated and unproductive and often provides exposure to a variety of learning opportunities. 1 full day a week (8-10 hours) should be devoted to academic study, 1 day for life tasks (food purchase, laundry, cleaning, paperwork, etc.) and 1 day for Sabbath rest and church (where possible).

How can I get the word out about our internships to your students?

- 1) Submit a posting through our online application. These are regularly approved and, once posted, will remain online until no longer relevant.
- 2) Attend our annual Missions Fair, annually held on the Tuesday leading up to MissionFest Vancouver (end of January). You are also welcome to provide brochures and small promotional materials that we will display on the board in our ICS office.
- 3) In the online postings, students know some answers will be general estimates (i.e. cost, timelines). However, for the ministry activities, location and language spoken, please be as specific as possible in your answers. Try to avoid general terms like "ministry," "service," and "evangelism." These can effectively describe any and all internships! Instead, describe specific activities (sports, ESL, camps) and people groups (women, orphans, homeless, addicts). Also describe the goal of the ministry (addiction recovery, support after human trafficking, church planting, care for refugees). Clear descriptions allow students to be wise in determining their fit, gifting and interest level.

Links for posts www.columbiabc.edu/ics-posting-internships

Does Columbia screen students before they apply to our organization to ensure a good fit?

No. Although the ICS Director works closely with students as a consultant and to help them make wise decisions, CBC does not necessarily endorse every student for every internship opportunity. Your organization should employ all standard measures for screening our students as applicants.

My organization serves in many locations all over the world! How can I choose which one(s) to post?

It is overwhelming for a potential intern to hear that the organization they are interested in serves in 80 countries! It is more helpful for the mission representative to think through various locations and determine the top 1-3 which are most suited for an internship *at this time*. Ask:

1. Which locations are safe and appropriate for this age/gender with no travel advisories?
2. Which locations are feasible for obtaining visas, permits, shots or other requirements?
3. Which missionaries love to train and disciple the next generation of young leaders?
4. Of those missionaries, which are most available (no furlough, illness, new babies, etc.)?
5. Which locations offer adequate accommodations and 8 months of ministry opportunities?

Through prayer and discernment, choose only the top 3 locations. This is the limit you can post.

What are the requirements and expectations of a mentor?

CBC requires a Mentor to be on-site for the majority of the time that the internship takes place. The Mentor plays a crucial role in the internship experience. He/she may be any nationality, but must be a committed follower of Christ and able to converse comfortably in English. When possible, it is ideal for the Mentor to be the same gender as the intern. Other than a mid-way and final evaluation of the intern, the mentor is not responsible to supervise the academic portion of the internship. The ICS Program Director creates all course syllabi and grades all academic assignments.

The Mentor serves as model, supervisor, and coach in helping the student adapt to and minister in the local culture. As a culture-broker, we hope the Mentor will have at least 5 years' missions experience and/or be highly recommended by the mission agency. The Mentor, CBC, and the missions organization all need to agree on the specifics of the internship placement.

The aim is for weekly or bi-weekly meetings between the Mentor and intern. These serve as times for prayer, encouragement, cultural explanation, ministry equipping, reflection and learning.

We anticipate the Mentor will be involved in the following ways (documents available online):

1. Complete a Learning Covenant with the student and College.
2. Help to structure the intern's study schedule at suitable times (min. of 8-10 hours each week).
3. Provide regular supervision and coaching for the student while in the field (weekly or bi-weekly).
4. Complete 2 formal evaluations (one at the 4-month mark and one at the conclusion). We ask that the Mentor review these reports with the intern prior to submitting them to the College.

CBC provides the Mentor with a stipend of \$500.00 CDN in gratitude for their supervision and time.

Does CBC cover costs for internships via their tuition payment?

No. Students pay CBC \$3,750 CDN (a reduced tuition amount) to cover the administrative and faculty expenses. You will need to determine in-country and organizational costs and communicate these to the intern. If the student is permitted to fundraise and offer charitable receipts for their time, we ask your organization to work with them to set this up and provide fundraising support.

Got more questions? Visit our website OR email bryan.born@columbiabc.edu.