

Guidelines for Vetting International Internship Placements or Social Problem-Solving Organizations for BYU Student Involvement

The university's call for better programs and more engaged students to pursue "Inspiring Learning" has made it necessary to articulate basic principles for evaluating international internship, research, and consulting placements with social problem solving organizations (SPSO) for BYU entities, faculty, and students.

1. Reputation

BYU Entities, Faculty, and Students wanting to work with an overseas social problem-solving organization (SPSO) should be placed with reputable organizations that provide support for student learning and whose goals are not in conflict with the goals and mission of a BYU Education.

Evaluation Criteria:

- a. Is the SPSO legally recognized in the country in which it operates?
- b. Has the organization been vetted by reputable partners or objective agencies?
- c. In the case of development or humanitarian agencies, does the SPSO measure its outcomes? Is there evidence that the organization's outcomes are creating positive change? Can the organization document program outcomes and the impact of their programs on the local community and culture?
- d. Is the output and work of the organization adapted to the local community and culture?

2. Quality Learning for Student

BYU students interning or working abroad should only be placed with organizations that can provide the student with a quality learning experience that ideally augments the learning they do on campus.

Evaluation Criteria:

- a. Does the placement have students doing work that meets the Aims of a BYU Education?
- b. Does the placement match the skills of the student?
- c. Is the placement more than simply humanitarian tourism, or short-term volunteering, in that it uses more than just the student's hands and back and instead provides the student the chance to use and expand his or her knowledge and skills?
- d. Does the work require the recommended 40 to 60 hours per academic credit over the term or semester?
- e. Does the organization provide adequate training, skill building and mentoring to students?

3. Logistics

BYU should avoid placing students with organizations that cannot provide good on-ground support.

Evaluation Criteria:

- a. Does BYU have a Memorandum of Understanding or other agreement with the organization which defines expectations of the BYU students and spells out what the students can expect from the organization?
- b. Does the organization have a plan in place to provide safety and security for the student? Is there a plan in place for safety, health, or security emergencies?
- c. Does the organization have at least one full-time employee and an internship coordinator or resources to provide support to students?
- d. Will the student receive adequate cultural, functional and logistical (travel, insurance, emergency planning, etc.) training on campus before the work?

4. Relations with the Local Church and Community

Organizations that host BYU students should not rely on the local LDS church membership and should comply with Church welfare principles that promote self-reliance.

Evaluation Criteria:

- a. Is the organization financially sustainable and does it avoid creating dependencies within the local community?
- b. Except in the case of placements that are clearly sponsored by the Church (i.e., LDS Charities, Self-Reliance Services; Church legal externships), is there a clear separation between the organization and the Church, church resources, and general Church membership?

Possible resources for vetting organizations:

- a. 100 list of best NGOs <http://theglobaljournal.net/top100ngos/>
- b. Inside NGO www.insidengo.org/job-category/internships-fellowships
- c. Inter Action www.interaction.org
- d. Ashoka www.ashoka.org
- e. Skoll Foundation <http://skoll.org>
- f. Schwab Foundation www.schwabfound.org
- g. Acumen Foundation www.acumen.org
- h. Echoing Green www.echoinggreen.org
- i. Mulago Foundation <http://mulagofoundation.org>