

## UPDATE ON GLOBAL INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM

### Background and objectives

1. A key motivation for the formation of the IARU Global Internship Program is to create unique opportunities for students to intern globally, and to provide them with actual research and work experiences.
2. The internships offered by Oxford and NUS, which is now into its second year are successful. Participants – from ANU, Berkeley, Cambridge, ETH Zurich and NUS, PKU – have benefitted greatly from the program. Internships usually occur in a country foreign to the interns, adding to rich life experiences, new skill sets and the opportunity for self-development.

### 2010 Internships

3. NUS offered 5 places IARU-wide, while Oxford offered internship places bilaterally to ANU, NUS and PKU.

#### NUS internships:

4. NUS received a total of 9 applications for the 5 positions. Only 3 positions were eventually filled.

No	Host Department	Project Description	Response Rate	Status
1	Asia Research Institute	<b>Conference Organisation 25 May to 17 July 2010</b> Working with faculty and staff to organise workshops and conferences.	3 – all from Berkeley	1 selected
2	Office of Corporate Relations	<b>Enhancing NUS' Social Networking Media Communication Channels 11 June to 16 July 2010</b> To help improve the presence of the University through social networking channels like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. with interesting and relevant contents for students.	2 – both from Cambridge	1 selected
3	NUS Museum	<b>Art Project in Cigondewah by Indonesian artist Tisna Sanjaya 28 May to 16 July 2010</b> The project focuses on Water, Garbage and Art as its main themes. Garbage and water are the basis of the artist's creative thinking process through observations and interactions, becoming the work of art and resulting in a cultural phenomenon.  It is the artist's hope that the work developed in public sphere in Cigondewah	2 – from Berkeley and ETH	1 declined. Position offered to another student

		can communicate with social situations and serves an interaction with its environment.  Exhibition opening in Nov 2010.		
4	NUS Museum	<b>Agus Suwage and Filippo Sciascia Exhibition</b> The exhibition focuses on the artists' recent trajectories and makes links to their practices through collaborative endeavours and curatorial interventions. The exhibition consists of new and current works and at times site specific. Works include drawings, paintings, videos, sculptures and installations.	1 – from ANU	0 selected
5	Office of Student Affairs	<b>Student Organisations</b> Assist with the administration and coordination of student activities (e.g. Rag Day, Freshmen Inauguration Ceremony) as well as on issues of student governance and leadership.	1 – from Berkeley	0 selected

5. Feedback from the interns was generally positive:
  - a. They felt that they gained practical skills, improved cultural understanding and broadened their global competencies.
  - b. Additional activities such as field trips and involvement in the Commencement ceremonies were well-received.
  - c. The interns liked the accommodation provided, although one intern asked to be housed together with the other interns (they were in separate blocks) and another asked for an air-conditioned room. Accommodation of such requests will be dependent on availability.
  - d. The interns appreciated being put in touch with one another, although one asked that they be put in touch sooner.
6. Feedback from host departments was generally positive as well, ranging from meets expectations to exceptional. In terms of areas for improvement,
  - a. Departments prefer to interview the candidates, whether via Skype or other channels. This option was available this year, and will be stated more clearly in future.
  - b. A longer internship period was requested. This is limited mainly by the availability of accommodation on campus.

Oxford internships:

7. *Program summary:* Oxford offered 8-week summer research placements in each of five labs within the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM). Two of these placements were coordinated with IARU universities: PKU and NUS. (The other universities involved were Toronto, Tsinghua, and Nanking.) In addition, Oxford offered two 6-week "Sustainability Fellowships" in the Estates Department. Both placements were coordinated with IARU universities: ANU and Tokyo. These were work placements in which the students had the opportunity to work on environmental sustainability topics important to the University.

Department	Placement description	Supervisor	Student's university
Clinical medicine	Ludwig Cancer Institute	Prof. Xin Lu	PKU
Clinical medicine	Immunology	Prof. Fiona Powrie	NUS
Estates	Sustainability Fellowship: identifying departmental building energy quick wins	Jenny Ekelund, Philip Pike	ANU
Estates	Sustainability Fellowship: raising awareness about Oxford's energy reduction goals	Jenny Ekelund, Kate Aydin	Tokyo

The three clinical medicine placements filled with students from non-IARU universities were:

- Structural biology: viruses and viral proteins (Prof. Dave Stuart)
- Structural biology: cell surface receptors (Prof. Yvonne Jones)
- Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine: iron metabolism (Prof. Alain Townsend)

8. *Selection process*: All interns were initially nominated by their own universities. For the clinical medicine placements, NUS and PKU sent us three CVs, and the labs in which they were to be placed conducted interviews to select the students. For the sustainability placements, ANU and Tokyo selected the students on our behalf (as we selected students to do similar fellowships at ANU and Berkeley).
9. *Sustainability*: worked well. Not here at same time due to term dates of their universities. Not selected by us. We had two students go out to Berkeley and ANU, and we select them. Need to be clear about expectations; one thought he was doing a research placement rather than a work placement. He did some great work on the 10:10 campaign (a voluntary pledge Univ has signed up to).
10. Feedback from the interns was generally positive:
  - a. They felt they were given substantive and developmental research/work opportunities. Those who worked in clinical medicine felt inspired by the research they took part in and said they learned a great deal of science.
  - b. The clinical medicine students stayed in Merton College, one of Oxford's oldest and most beautiful, and they raved about the experience. They enjoyed taking meals with the Fellows and graduates and participating in the life of the college.
  - c. Not all students were in Oxford at the same time or were able to take part in orientation/social activities. Those who were here on their own and unable to participate would have appreciated the chance to take part.
  - d. One student felt that Oxford could have communicated more clearly prior to the placement, to let her know who she should liaise with on various topics. Another student, who was one of the Sustainability Fellows, did not understand that he was here to do a work (rather than research) placement until arriving.
11. Feedback from the departments was also generally positive, and identified a few areas for improvement:
  - a. The quality of the students has been outstanding, and the selection process has generally gone very smoothly. Clinical medicine is keen to see the students apply to enter Oxford's

DPhil program after graduation, as one has done already, and is optimistic that others will as well.

- b. It has been challenging to get payment to Chinese students in a safe and effective manner. Because it is only difficult to get a bank account here in the UK quickly, and because they often do not have access to their Chinese accounts while here, we have been forced to pay the £3000 stipends in cash in some cases. This exposes the students to a risk we'd rather avoid, and are working on ways to do it differently next summer.

12. The internships will be offered again next summer, we are pleased to report. The clinical medicine research placement program will in fact expand to include additional places, given the infusion of new funds from a gift made to the University to support this and other programs for Chinese students. We have not yet worked out how the additional places will be allocated across departments or universities. Oxford may continue to offer two Sustainability Fellowships, or may reduce the number to 1. The Estates Department is keen to also create a way for Oxford students to intern with them on sustainability issues, and may decide to redirect some of the funding that has been used to pay for the IARU interns' accommodation costs to this purpose, requiring a reduction in the size of the program. This decision will be made in the coming months.

### **Next Steps**

13. At the IARU Global Summer Program working committee meeting in September 2010, the meeting supported the Global Internship Program in principle, but did not agree on formalizing it at this point.

14. The meeting recommended instead that

- a. A committee be set up to draft goals and principles for the Global Internship Program
- b. Key internship information from each partner be compiled
- c. Opportunities for 2011 be managed the same way they have been since 2009. Partners can send their 2011 summer internship positions to the Secretariat for publicity on the IARU website and to be circulated to partners