OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL & INTERCULTURAL TRAINING (OPIT)
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN ARMENIA

2019 U.S. Intern Abroad
Armenia Scholarship
ABOUT THE U.S. INTERN ABROAD ARMENIA SCHOLARSHIP

With funding from the U.S. Department of State through the U.S. Study Abroad Grant, this scholarship offers U.S. undergraduate and graduate students exposure to the global workplace through eight-week internships on the OPIT Program in Armenia. Students gain valuable insight and experience into the tourism/ecotourism sector and economic development in Armenia while developing professional and intercultural skills demanded by today’s market.

U.S. Intern Abroad Armenia Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need, program compatibility, and academic merit; awards range from $1,000 to $2,000.

INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS

American Councils has identified and confirmed internship placements at five organizations in the tourism or ecotourism sector in Armenia. To learn more about specific internship positions, see the following pages.

My Armenia Program is funded by USAID and implemented by the Smithsonian Institution

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for U.S. Intern Abroad Armenia funding, applicants must:

- Apply to the Overseas Professional & Intercultural Training Program in Armenia;
- Be U.S. citizens or permanent residents;
- Be currently enrolled in or recently graduated from a higher education institution;
- Meet the desired qualifications of the internship host.

APPLY


To be considered for the U.S. Intern Abroad Armenia Scholarship, simply indicate your wish to be considered for financial aid when completing the application for your selected program and complete all the questions and forms that follow.
2019 U.S. Intern Abroad Armenia Scholarship

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Intern in Protected Areas Ecotourism Promotion at Caucasus Nature Fund

COUNTRY: Armenia

PROGRAM DATES: June 13 – August 11, 2019

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION:

The Caucasus Nature Fund (CNF) is a conservation trust fund working to protect the Caucasus wilderness (one of the most biologically rich and diverse areas on Earth) for future generations. Our mission is to contribute to the improved management and sustainable development of the Caucasus’ natural and cultural heritage by providing effective long-term funding support to the protected areas of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

CNF provides matching grants and management assistance to the protected areas of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, building capacity to sustain the parks for future generations.

This internship affords students with a chance to not only learn and contribute to the protected Areas, but also to gain an understanding about both the CNF work in Armenia and in region, to trip and gain knowledge about protected areas and acknowledge the importance of the Caucasus wildlife protection.

An internship with the CNF provides the opportunity to develop professional skills on protected areas (PAs) and on ecotourism development.

Learn more about CNF: https://www.caucasus-naturefund.org/
https://www.facebook.com/CNF.CaucasusNatureFund/

KEY DUTIES:

• Support the Armenian Protected Areas (PAs) to develop high quality English language promotional materials: brochures, booklets, flyers, etc.;
• Support to develop content devoted to ecotourism for PAs’ websites, Facebook pages, twitter, Wikipedia and other relevant internet sources;
• Support the preparation of electronic trail maps for PAs using Google Earth, as well as Wikiloc, View Ranger and similar platforms;
• Develop basic tourists’ feedback collection mechanism at a PAs level for piloting in August 2019.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience/Skills Desired: Communication and writing skills, cross-cultural skills, basic knowledge of ecotourism, basic knowledge of content development is strongly preferred, computer literacy, including basic knowledge of Google Earth and similar tools, Ability to travel to PAs

Major/s Desired: Undergraduate or graduate student studying environmental science, geography, agribusiness or related field.
INTERNERSHIP DESCRIPTION

FPWC
Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets

Intern in Public Relations and Marketing at Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

COUNTRY: Armenia
PROGRAM DATES: June 13 – August 11, 2019

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION:

FPWC was founded in 2002 and since then Foundation is involved in biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and awareness rising in Armenia targeting threatened species both in Armenia and in the region. During more than 15 years FPWC has initiated and implemented more than 70 conservation projects.

With the aim to preserve the rich biodiversity in Armenia as well as to address the gaps of the state management of PA’s, in 2010 FPWC has established the first privately protected area in the South Caucasus bordering the biggest state reserve “Khosrov Forest”, serving as a buffer zone and safe haven for rare species inhabiting the reserve and adjacent areas.

Moreover, FPWC runs SunChild EcoTours to create economic opportunities for rural Armenians, and to build a fair and sustainable tourism niche in Armenia.

An internship with Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets will give you following possibilities:

- Explore Armenia’s wildlife and cultural heritage
- Gain knowledge and experience in environmental public relations
- Attend seminars and workshops
- Other related opportunities for the students

KEY DUTIES:

- Compile and prepare media releases & articles for e-portals and e-news agencies
- Maintain and update information on the organization’s websites
- Manage and update social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Assist senior team to organize events such as conferences, festivals, etc.
- Other administrative tasks as required

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience/Skills Desired: Excellent communication, writing and analytical skills, experience creating social media content, cross-cultural skills

Background Desired: Graduate student studying public relations and marketing

Overseas Professional & Intercultural Training (OPIT) Internship Program
www.acstudyabroad.org/opit
INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

INTERN in Forest Landscape Restoration at Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

COUNTRY: Armenia
PROGRAM DATES: June 13 – August 11, 2019

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION:

FPWC was founded in 2002 and since then Foundation is involved in biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and awareness rising in Armenia targeting threatened species both in Armenia and in the region. During more than 15 years FPWC has initiated and implemented more than 70 conservation projects.

With the aim to preserve the rich biodiversity in Armenia as well as to address the gaps of the state management of PA’s, in 2010 FPWC has established the first privately protected area in the South Caucasus bordering the biggest state reserve “Khosrov Forest”, serving as a buffer zone and safe haven for rare species inhabiting the reserve and adjacent areas.

The main location of the project is Caucasus Wildlife Refuge – an area neighboring Khosrov forest at Ararat region. There are nursery, seed bank and restoration sites and Urtsadzor community is the main stakeholder of the project. An office is located in Yerevan.

An internship with Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets will give you following possibilities:

- Explore Armenia’s wildlife and cultural heritage while learning process management skills.
- Develop analytic skills and systems thinking.
- Develop skills in GIS, mapping, and data science.
- Opportunity to become co-author of article for scientific paper.

KEY DUTIES:

- Reviewing weekly and monthly reporting materials and developing databases. Analyzing available data and developing statistics.
- Mapping degraded areas in a territory and assisting with the development of forest landscape restoration plan. Mapping seed trees in a territory and assisting with the development of a seed collection plan.
- Communicating with potential partners in Armenia and abroad.
- Assisting in writing articles in Armenian, English and other languages for scientific papers.
- Helping to organize events around the project for a variety of audiences including children.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience/Skills Desired: Research skills, excellent communication and writing skills, cross-cultural skills, detail-oriented. Proficiency in GIS practices and skilled in field work is preferred.

Background desired: Undergraduate or graduate student studying environmental science, geography, agribusiness or related field.

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INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

Intern in Wildlife and Caving Tourism at Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (FPWC)

COUNTRY: Armenia

PROGRAM DATES: June 13 – August 11, 2019

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION:

FPWC was founded in 2002 and since then Foundation is involved in biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and awareness rising in Armenia targeting threatened species both in Armenia and in the region. During more than 15 years FPWC has initiated and implemented more than 70 conservation projects.

With the aim to preserve the rich biodiversity in Armenia as well as to address the gaps of the state management of PA’s, in 2010 FPWC has established the first privately protected area in the South Caucasus bordering the biggest state reserve “Khosrov Forest”, serving as a buffer zone and safe haven for rare species inhabiting the reserve and adjacent areas.

FPWC safeguards not only the wild population of animals, but also mistreated and/or injured wildlife. In 2016 FPWC established the first in Armenia Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC) in Urtsadzor community of Ararat region and one year later initiated “Great Bear” rescue campaign by rescuing caged bears throughout the country. Within first 5 months of the campaign 15 bears were rescued from their miserable living conditions in private premises.

Moreover, FPWC runs SunChild EcoTours to create economic opportunities for rural Armenians, and to build a fair and sustainable tourism niche in Armenia.

An internship with Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets will give you following possibilities:

- Explore Armenia’s wildlife and cultural heritage. Learn about mammal and bird conservation in one of the Biodiversity hotspots in the world – the Caucasus Region.
- Learn about community based tourism and benefits of organic farming for wildlife. Manage and lead nature-based tourist groups in the country.
- Attend annual eco-tourism conferences and festivals. Participate in other tourism related events and campaigns for students

KEY DUTIES:

- Identify and develop wildlife and caving tourism products
- Working to support the eco-tourism expert to promote final tourism products.
- Establish commercial partnerships with relevant companies within the tourism industry.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience/Skills Desired: Excellent communication skills with ability to work with people across cultures, knowledge of wildlife-based and caving tourism, good understanding of tourism industry.

Background desired: Undergraduate or graduate student studying environmental science, geography, agribusiness or related field. Knowledge of ecotourism (wildlife and caving tourism) preferred.
Intern in Ecotourism at the International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education (ICARE)

COUNTRY: Armenia
PROGRAM DATES: June 13 – August 11, 2019

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION:
At the International Center for Agribusiness Research and Education (ICARE) each student, graduate, faculty, and staff member belongs to the ICARE family. We believe that innovative education is the single most important factor for prosperity and development. To achieve this, we combine the best practices and the most advanced knowledge in agribusiness education, research, and development.

The ICARE Foundation currently administers the Agribusiness Teaching Center (ATC), the Agribusiness Research Center (ARC), and the EVN Wine Academy (EVN).

ICARE has connections with most of the agribusiness companies around Armenia, ranging from large-scale high-tech industrial agribusiness enterprises to small-scale family producers. The ICARE reach extends far beyond the South Caucasus. ATC is also are also proud that many alumni are faculty members at world-renowned universities such as Texas A&M, Kansas State University, the University of Sydney, Cornell University, Florida State University, etc.

Learn more about ICARE online: www.icare.am  https://www.facebook.com/ICAREArmenia/

KEY DUTIES:
- Research ecotourism in Armenia, conduct expert interviews, and produce a report.
- Assist in managing success stories about students, alumni, faculty, and staff on social media
- Produce articles about ecotourism for newspapers in Armenia and Diaspora newspapers abroad.
- Conduct seminars and short sessions about ecotourism, rural tourism, and other agribusiness-related topics of your preference to ICARE undergrad and graduate students.
- Assist in writing articles for ICARE Annual Report.
- Help in areas where you have additional skills such as graphic design or other software.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Experience/Skills Desired: Understanding of tourism, ecotourism, rural tourism concepts. Excellent writing and communication skills, including networking. Cross-cultural skills. Research and analytical skills.

Background Desired: Graduate student studying tourism, management or related field.
Intern at My Armenia Program (Funded by USAID and implemented by the Smithsonian Institution)

COUNTRY: Armenia
PROGRAM DATES: June 13 – August 11, 2019

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION:

The My Armenia Program (My Armenia) works to increase and share knowledge about Armenian cultural heritage and build capacity to support the long-term vitality of Armenian cultural sites and practices.

My Armenia works with historians, anthropologists, ethnographers, community experts, and others to document cultural expressions—architecture, artisan craft, cuisine, dance, dress, music, and traditional knowledge—through a collaborative process based on tools developed by the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

The project’s name reflects the important role that storytelling plays in this work. Through digital, print, and interactive media, My Armenia shares stories about Armenia’s cultural heritage, bringing to life the diversity and complex histories of Armenia’s cultural traditions. Working with communities to document stories about their cultural traditions, this research informs collaborative work to build capacity in community-based cultural experiences that share and support Armenia’s cultural vitality.

Each My Armenia experience reflects the voices of Armenian communities and the complex stories surrounding Armenian cultural heritage. With museums, artists, artisans, and sites, My Armenia seeks to build local capacity to safeguard these cultural experiences for many years to come and share them with global audiences. By building capacity and increasing knowledge of Armenia’s rich cultural traditions – past and present – My Armenia harnesses the tools of community-based cultural tourism to support this globally-significant cultural heritage.

This internship affords students with a chance to not only learn and contribute to the My Armenia Program’s everyday activities, but also gain an understanding about the cultural heritage and touristic activities, development of regional communities of Armenia, as well as meeting and working with artisans, museum specialists, touristic experience owners, etc.

KEY DUTIES:

- **Business Planning** Work with 2 tourism products that My Armenia is supporting, potentially Nurik Center in Akhtala and Gnishik Foundation in Yeghegnadzor (although this will be confirmed closer to the time) to develop business plans for each organization for their ecotourism activities. This will include market research to help identify the markets for the organizations as well as business strategies for managing and promoting their activities.

- **Video Production** Create one-two minute videos (including interviews of tourism product owners in regions) that will be shared on My Armenia’s social media channels and the website, as well as used during respective events.

- **Developing short narratives** Write short narratives in English language about the tourism destination and tourism experiences. These narratives will be shared on My Armenia’s social media channels and the website.
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INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

- Training on social media: Work with tourism product owners in regions and train them on how to develop Facebook and Instagram pages, how to professionally manage social media channels, and how to use English words and phrases to attract more customers.

- Develop and Implement Regional Marketing Strategy: Work with My Armenia staff to design and implement a campaign targeting travelers in Yerevan to explore the 5 target regions where My Armenia is working. This will consist of initial strategy development (1-2 weeks) based on local market research and information from My Armenia and other partners. Then implement a 4-5 week campaign promoting travel to the regions focusing on Ecotourism activities in the regions.

- Wilderness First Aid and Nature Hiking Training: Work with Gnishik Foundation, Khndazoresk, Tatev Hiking, Based Tours and other nature-based activities supported by My Armenia to train guides in wilderness first aid and nature-based guiding and interpretation for hiking tours.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience/Skills Desired: Research and marketing skills, writing, detail oriented, cross-cultural skills

Major/s Desired: Cultural Studies, Tourism Development, International Relations, International Business/Undergraduate or Graduate student
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INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

WWF for a living planet®
Intern in Communications and Fundraising at WWF Armenia

COUNTRY: Armenia

PROGRAM DATES: June 13 – August 11, 2019

PLACEMENT DESCRIPTION:

WWF began its activities in Armenia in 2002 and as of November 2006, WWF-Armenia has been registered as an official branch of WWF International as a part of WWF Caucasus Program Office.

One of the main priorities of WWF-Armenia is conservation of endangered species such as Caucasian leopard, Armenian mouflon, Bezoar goat, Brown bear, etc.

During 15 years of hard work we have recorded a number of results the most important of which are the following:

- Return of the Caucasian Leopard to Armenia
- Almost 3 million planted trees in Armenia
- Strengthening of Protected Areas System
- Community Development Programs
- Red Deer reintroduction project in Armenia

In addition to this we have implemented a number of projects aimed at improving environmental education and developing ecotourism in Armenia. WWF actively supported civil society in different environmental campaigns.

An internship with the WWF-Armenia provides the opportunity to work in one of the largest and most reputable environmental organizations in the world while becoming a member of our creative team and contributing directly to the protection of endangered species in Armenia.


KEY DUTIES:

- Assist in marketing by creating and managing communications content
- Write success stories about opportunities of developing ecotourism in protected areas
- Support our marketing team by creating Facebook and Instagram stories and updating our websites
- Other administrative tasks as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Experience/Skills Desired: Excellent communication, writing and analytical skills, experience creating social media content, cross-cultural skills

Major/s Desired: Undergraduate or graduate student studying public relations and marketing or a related field.