DIVERSIFY YOUR WORKFORCE WITH HIGHLY SKILLED INTERNATIONAL IAESTE TRAINEES

www.britishcouncil.org/iaeste
HOW YOUR COMPANY CAN BENEFIT

IAESTE has helped 300,000 students of science, engineering, technology and applied arts subjects to gain valuable international work experience in over 80 partner countries.

The increasing competitiveness and interdependency of the global economy means that more than ever before people need intercultural skills in the workplace to reach their full potential. Such skills have the ability to enhance team working, foster creativity and improve communications in the workplace and to the markets you want to target.

IAESTE allows employers in the UK to benefit from brilliant, motivated students from across the globe, who bring to your organisation new ideas and new perspectives. IAESTE selects the best students from around the world who we know will make a valuable and lasting contribution to your company. By hosting an IAESTE trainee, your company also contributes to the development of home-grown talent by creating an opportunity for UK students to work overseas.

WHY GET INVOLVED?

When you welcome an IAESTE trainee for a placement at your organisation, you can be confident that you’re getting a valuable new team member.

IAESTE allows you to specify the expertise you need and then selects the best candidate for you from more than 10,000 top undergraduates in 1,000 universities worldwide.

This means you can:

• recruit hand-picked, high-calibre trainees for short- or long-term projects at extremely competitive rates
• build relationships with the industry leaders of tomorrow and raise your organisation’s profile abroad
• profit from a fresh perspective on sector expertise and cutting-edge techniques around the globe
• enhance your export strategies through gaining new knowledge and networks from a particular region you are targeting
• overcome communication barriers by gaining international trainees with multiple language skills.
TRAINEES BRING DIVERSITY

Cardiff University’s School of Biosciences has been hosting IAESTE trainees for five years and researchers there have consistently been impressed with the incoming students.

One of their recent trainees was Kamila Mustafina, a biotechnology student from Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan.

‘Her work ethic just shone through and she required minimal training’ says PhD student Jo James, who is researching how evasive crayfish and parasites interact. ‘She has been brilliant.’ Also supervising Kamila was Dr Jo Cable, whose research includes otter post-mortem examinations, ‘an advantage of an IAESTE trainee is that they don’t come to you with a remit, there is scope for lots of things, allowing the student and the supervisor to branch out’.

Kamila worked on other projects and interacted with a large group of research staff in various stages of their careers. This helped her to focus her ambitions and decide that she wanted to go into research and pursue a PhD. And the learning process was by no means one way. Kamila’s presence in the lab gave staff the opportunity for valuable cultural exchange – from learning Russian to finding out about research techniques and work ethics in Kazakhstan.

Co-ordinating the IAESTE exchange students in the School of Biosciences is Dr Henrietta Standley. She recently addressed fellow academics and employers, highlighting the benefits of being involved in the programme. ‘We regularly host IAESTE trainees which is a testament to how much we value the scheme and to the high calibre of incoming students.’

‘I have never been disappointed with IAESTE students. They are motivated and intuitive, have a great work ethic and a real passion for their subject area.’
Intelesens, a leading Northern Ireland-based healthcare products manufacturer, decided to test its new range of wearable, vital signs-monitoring devices. It lost no time in recruiting an IAESTE trainee for its team.

‘IAESTE placement candidates are an elite, self-selected subset of university level students who by presenting themselves to the programme, have already demonstrated exceptional self confidence, ambition, motivation and the drive to grasp the opportunity’ says CEO Michael Caulfield, who has employed more than a dozen trainees over the years.

‘The IAESTE selection process allows you to define as precisely as you need, the technical profile of the resource which will add to the value of your team and then IAESTE does the rest.’

The firm were delighted with their IAESTE trainee in 2013. Alexis Dubois, from KU Levern University Belgium, not only had a bachelor’s degree in electromechanical engineering and a master’s in mechanical engineering from Tsingua University Beijing, but had also completed various industrial traineeships abroad.

Alexis proved to be a valuable member of the team and helped develop the prototype of a body-worn pulse oximetry sensor, which is set to go into production next year. To prospective employers Michael said ‘I strongly recommend you consider taking a placement this year and in future years. IAESTE provides plug and play, off-the-shelf human technical resources!’

‘For business, for academia and for each of us as individuals the IAESTE international placement scheme is one of life’s rare WIN-WIN opportunities.’
As a lecturer at Imperial College London, the University at which IAESTE was founded over 65 years ago, Alison Ahearn has had the satisfaction of seeing many of her students flourish through technical placements abroad. One of the most memorable placements involved a British student who went on a traineeship in Iran not long after there had been diplomatic issues involving the country.

The student was placed with the research group of an institute charged with working out what was causing concrete railway sleepers to break in the nation’s very arid desert regions. ‘The student found himself in remote places, in tough conditions, being treated as a serious co-worker and an honoured guest,’ says Alison Ahearn. The work was successful, the team identified the defect in the sleepers and its recommendations had a huge impact on the efficiency of the rail service. ‘The research institute were obviously delighted with him,’ says Alison Ahearn.

‘His presence created a focus for thinking about what they did, how they did it, why they did it and what they valued from it. The other workers were as intellectually engaged as the student.’ From this interaction across borders, students can accelerate their maturity, their development and expand their cultural horizons. Alison concluded ‘The fact that employers in over 80 countries are engaged, that so many students have changed their perspectives and that it is so well organised is a matter that brings benefits and credit, tangible and intangible, to all involved.’

‘His entire perspective of Iran shifted in weeks. His stories, on his return, shifted my perspective too.’

When a Glasgow-based director of global engineering and environmental consultancy URS Glasgow first heard about IAESTE at an industry dinner, he didn’t hesitate to get involved.

The company was working on a large project in Sweden and Director Alan Frew and his colleagues knew that offering traineeships to Swedish students would give their team a great advantage. As these placements were such a success URS decided to offer two additional placements the following year, one in its Glasgow office and one in Belfast. As well as providing translation services and liaising with the Stockholm team, the Glasgow trainee worked alongside the company’s engineers to address design challenges. ‘There’s very little bureaucracy involved in providing a placement. After the initial decision to take on a trainee is made, most of the work is performed by IAESTE. It’s all very easy from that point of view.’

‘IAESTE provides URS with an opportunity to make use of unique skills which may be less readily available in UK-based students,’ says Alan Frew. ‘It is the nature of good business to always suspect that there is a catch, but in IAESTE there is no catch. It’s a good thing to do for your company and for a student. I am a convert.’
GET INVOLVED – OFFER A TRAINEESHIP TODAY!

IAESTE is an international student exchange programme with partner agencies in more than 80 countries. With over 65 years’ experience of exchanging over 4,000 trainees a year, IAESTE could help your business succeed in a global market.

Our trainees are highly skilled, ambitious and motivated and bring the latest in academic learning, technical knowledge and innovative thinking to your line of work. They are ideally placed to carry out project and research work and to help develop new business opportunities overseas.

IAESTE is a great way to build contacts and cultural links, as well as ambassadors for your organisation.

We offer a free and tailored service, making it as easy as possible for you to introduce a student into your business.

Let us take care of the details, contact us now and offer a traineeship today.

Find out more:

Visit www.britishcouncil.org/iaeste
or contact us at iaeste@britishcouncil.org