



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS FOR TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

IAESTE OVERVIEW

1. AIMS AND MISSION

Aims

- To provide students in higher education with technical experience relevant to their studies
- To offer employers well-qualified and motivated trainees
- To be a source of cultural enrichment for trainees and their host communities

Mission

To operate a high quality practical training exchange programme between members in order to enhance technical and professional development and to promote international understanding and goodwill amongst students, academic institutions, employers and the wider community

IAESTE operates irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed.

2. HISTORY

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience was founded in 1948 at Imperial College, London. Imperial College Vacation Work Committee headed by Mr James Newby initiated a meeting with national organisations from 10 European countries in a post war effort to promote better understanding between countries and cultures.

Since 1948, the association has grown to include more than 80 countries world-wide and has exchanged in excess of 300,000 students. This means that yearly IAESTE exchanges around 6000 students playing a key role in the development of technical undergraduates able to make their mark in a global economy.

3. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Currently, participating countries are: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Macedonia (fyr), Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, West Bank.

4. STRUCTURE

The IAESTE Association is a confederation of National Committees representing academic, industrial, and student interests. Each national committee is responsible for the administration of the exchange in its own country.

Membership is given after the establishment of a National Committee in accordance with the statutes of IAESTE, together with a responsible permanent secretariat.

The type of secretariat which administers the exchange varies according to each country's national structure, educational system, and funding policies. The essential requirement is that the national secretariat, whatever its organization and status, should have competent permanent staff.

5. BODIES

GS - The General Secretary is elected by the members to co-ordinate the daily administration of the Association and is responsible to the General Conference.

GC - The General Conference has full power to make formal decisions for the fulfillment of the aims and regulation of the Association. It is composed of one delegate from each member country. It also provides the forum during which the exchange of placements is carried out. It meets every year in January.

Board - The Board is an elected body which prepares the work of the General Conference and advises the General Secretary on all matters of interest to the Association. It is composed of four elected members and the General Secretary.

NC - The National Committees represent the member countries and are composed of persons representing academic, industrial and student interests.

6. SERVICE

What does IAESTE offer to employers?

- Sourcing and selection of high calibre technical students according to requirements
- Hands-on service for easy and time-effective administration
- Networking opportunities through foreign students and universities
- Administration of work permit applications for placement students
- Accommodation arrangement for placement students (Open exchange only)
- Provision of pastoral and social care for placements students

What does IAESTE offer to students?

- Provision of paid, technical work experience abroad for skill enhancement
- Safe experience through IAESTE support network
- Support with practical arrangements i.e. work permits / visa, accommodation and travel

7. RELATIONS

The international body of IAESTE is a non-political, independent non-governmental organization maintaining consultative or operational relationship with the following agencies of the United Nations:

UNESCO - UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ECOSOC - UN Economic and Social Council
UNIDO - UN Industrial Development Organization
ILO - International Labour Office

IAESTE is also in contact with:

EU - European Union
ECA - United Nations Economic Council for Africa
FAO - Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN
OAS - Organisation of American States

as well as with many educational non-governmental organizations.