

## **INTERNSHIPS AND PRACTICAL TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES**

Practical training is an integral part of undergraduate studies at Danish universities. Many students elect to do such training outside Denmark and may find a company or organization in the United States, not only willing but eager to accept a Danish student as an unpaid trainee. **However, students may not use the Visa Waiver Program or a tourist (B-1/B-2) visa to engage in a hands-on business activity or to gain "practical experience."** Except for undergraduate medical students taking an "elective clerkship" at a U.S. medical school's hospital, **students who wish to go to the U.S. for practical training must obtain an [J-1 exchange visitor visa](#) or [H-3 trainee visa](#).** It makes no difference whether or not the student receives a salary from a U.S. source.

*As of February 15, 2003 all F, J and M visa applicants must be registered with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). It is the school's / organization's responsibility to register their students, trainees etc. All DS-2019 and I-20 documents issued on or after February 15, 2003 must be SEVIS compatible documents. All continuing students must present a SEVIS generated Form I-20 or DS-2019 when applying for a visa.*

**For those wishing to pursue practical training in the U.S., the key to success is planning ahead.** We recommend that students start the process at least six months before they plan to go to the U.S., to avoid last-minute disappointments.

Please be aware that United States U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services regulations state that holders of F, M and J nonimmigrant visas will not be admitted to the United States until a date 30 days or less prior to the beginning of your program date, or start date, as given on your form I-20 (for F or M visas) or DS-2019 (for J visas). Please consider that date carefully when making your travel plans to the United States.

### **Practical Training Under the Exchange Visitors Program**

There are several organizations that arrange practical training in the U.S. for both students and young professionals. These organizations have been authorized by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs ("BECA") to operate such programs under the exchange visitor category. Individuals who use these programs receive a J-1 visa and may also receive a salary.

Following is a list of approved sponsoring organizations. The list is not exhaustive and does not constitute a recommendation.

#### **Danmark-America Fondet (The American-Scandinavian Foundation)**

Fiolstraede 24 , 3  
1171 Copenhagen K  
Tel: 33 12 82 23  
[www.daf-fulb.dk](http://www.daf-fulb.dk)

Training program for applicants between 21 and 30 years who have completed an education in a profession, trade, or skill (must have completed a "studerter" or HF exam).

**International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE)**

Danmarks Tekniske Højskole  
Anker Engelunds Vej, Bygning 101F  
2800 Lyngby  
Tel: 77 42 43 90  
Fax: 77 42 43 99  
E-mail: [office@iaeste.dk](mailto:office@iaeste.dk)

Exchange of students for technical experience; applicants must be engineering, architecture, agriculture, or pharmacology students; 8-12 weeks practical training.

**AIIESEC-Denmark**

Fiolstraede 44  
1171 Copenhagen K  
Tel: 33 32 97 48  
E-mail: [mc@aiiesec.dk](mailto:mc@aiiesec.dk)

Exchange program for students of economics or business administration. Applicant must be a postgraduate student in business or economics; 6-8 weeks of practical business experience.

**AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS**

**IAEA Travel ApS (International Agricultural Exchange Association)**

Lerchenborg 3  
4400 Kalundborg  
Tel: 59 51 15 25  
Fax: 59 51 05 07  
E-mail: [iaea@lerchenborg.dk](mailto:iaea@lerchenborg.dk); [euro@agriventure.com](mailto:euro@agriventure.com)

Seven or nine months in Minnesota or California; one year of practical experience required; applicants must be between 18 and 30 years of age.

**Landoekonomisk Rejsebureau**

Vesterbrogade 4 A, 4. sal  
1620 Copenhagen V  
Tel: 33 39 46 40  
Fax: 33 39 46 08  
E-mail: [LRB@LRB.dk](mailto:LRB@LRB.dk)

Twelve month program; 8 months of practical experience on a farm, 1 month of independent travel, and 3 months of courses at the University of Minnesota.

**NOTE:** Certain large U.S. firms, corporations, and universities may be authorized by the BECA to operate their own exchange visitors programs (J-1). If the training is in conjunction with a university, the student should inquire whether the university itself

will issue Form DS-2019. If so, it may not be necessary to utilize an outside program to obtain Form DS-2019.

**Practical Training as an "H-3" Trainee**

It is also possible to obtain practical training in the U.S. on an H-3 trainee visa. However, in order to obtain an H-3 visa the U.S. employer must file an individual petition with the nearest office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Approval of an H-3 petition often takes several months.