

## 34. Expectations of Organizations that Host Internships

### Note to Past, Current or Potential Host Organizations

Thank you for taking the time to visit our website. At the heart of our students' SOL experience is their nine-week internship with a host organization such as your own. SOL students are the best Duke has to offer and consistently make meaningful contributions to the work of their host organizations. The extent to which an internship is successful, however, requires a significant commitment of time and energy on the part of the host organization to orient our students and determine their roles for the internship.

Current and past host organizations already know that SOL requires three things from its host organizations:

- 1) Direct interaction.** SOL expects part of the student's scope of work will include direct contact with the community and individuals that your organization represents and/or serves.
  
- 2) Supervisor/mentor relationship.** Through experience, SOL has found that both you and the student will benefit if there is a staff member from your organization designated to supervise and mentor the student during the nine-week internship.
  
- 3) Security.** SOL asks hosts to collaborate with us to ensure the safety and security of our students through a safety briefing during their orientation; see our Security Policy.

All of our SOL placements are based on the idea of reciprocity. It is important that the strengths

and needs of our students match the strengths and needs of your organization. A good internship experience takes considerable time and energy and we want both the student and host to feel like they are gaining something from each other. Many of our students collaborate with their host organizations to do community research projects that they can leave behind at the end of their internship. We call this Research Service Learning. While this is not required, read what one of our hosts said about the RSL project of one of our 2002 SOLsters:

“Shiying began by building a database with contacts, organization’s focus and observations. This quickly evolved into meetings with organizations and individuals. These contacts led her into meetings with small businesses within the Asian community. The outcomes from this work included completed loan applications (5 approved), a better understanding of the Asian business community - its challenges and strengths and some overall observations. Historically this particular community had been ‘untapped’ by ACCION. Shiying’s work this summer has built a foundation for ACCION to build up from.... This is the kind of work that builds an organization’s capacity with a lasting impact.”

If you want more information, are interested in being a host, or would like to reconnect, please contact the SOL Program Coordinator. We keep an active list of potential hosts upon which we rely to find good matches for our students every year.