

"A Journey of a Thousand Miles Begins With a Single Step..."

Lao-Tsu, Chinese Philosopher

The Labo Intern Program is not a formal study abroad program, but an education-through-experience program. Over a twelve-month period, the program includes:



Living with Japanese families, working for a Japanese company, and pursuing an independent study project. This allows interns to gain an excellent insight into modern Japanese society and Japanese business. Other benefits include: learning the Japanese language, improving cross-cultural communication skills, developing the ability to objectively examine one's own values and cultural background, and the opportunity for great personal and professional growth.

INTERN DUTIES

The work assigned to Labo Interns varies. Following are some examples of the variety of work expected of interns:

1. Labo Party visits
2. Labo Party district events
3. Cultural study project
4. International exchange programs
5. Labo Winter and Summer Camps
6. College Mate activities
7. Japanese language study
8. Office work

WORK SCHEDULE

The interns' schedule is very challenging. They are expected to work eight hours per day, five days per week. If work is required on weekends or in the evenings, an equivalent amount of time may be taken off during the week. In addition to regular holidays, interns are granted two weeks of vacation.

**"It is only through disruptions and confusion that we grow, jarred out of ourselves by the collision of someone else's private world with our own."
-Joyce Carol Oates**

HOMESTAYS

Interns live with Labo families, with each homestay lasting approximately one to two months. Host families vary in terms of lifestyles and interests, but each host family has a desire to open their homes to a young adult from North America/Australia—to share languages, cultures, and ideas.

Using the Japanese language on a daily basis and participating in the daily life of the Japanese people provides interns with a deeper understanding of modern Japan. Host family members are very helpful in teaching Japanese etiquette and proper use of the Japanese language for men and women. Many times there will be household members who do not speak any English, so interns will have to use Japanese to communicate!

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROJECT

Interns are required to pursue an independent study project while in Japan. Labo will grant interns eight hours (one working day) per week for this project, and will assist with making necessary arrangements. Labo can also offer limited financial support for expenses related to the independent study project.

Ideas for projects include: Japanese cultural arts, study of Japanese society, advanced study of the Japanese language, or other research topics such as the role of Japanese women, child-rearing philosophies, etc.

Labo suggests that applicants work with their college or university advisors to develop a project for which they can receive credit, as well as meet Labo's requirements.



FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Labo provides:

- A monthly stipend of ¥90,000 (about \$800 USD)
- Room and board with host families (except for lunch on workdays)
- All work-related travel expenses in Japan, including daily commuting passes, transportation, lodging and meals during Labo trips

Interns are responsible for:

- Lunch on workdays
- Personal expenses, such as clothing, postage, personal travel, entertainment, etc.
- Expenses involved with independent study project that go over ¥40,000

LABO INTERN Laura Corcoran, Ohio

As one of the two people selected by the Labo Program to represent the United States, I have been working this past year in Japan teaching children about America. Labo is a youth development program in Japan that teaches children leadership and English through a variety of hands on experiences, including exchange programs to the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. My job was to go out into the district that I was assigned to, and teach children in the different Labo clubs about my family and life in America. For many of the children I worked with I was the only foreigner they had ever met, so I had the opportunity to really make an impression on how they view the USA. The most rewarding feeling was to see a child, too shy to even make eye contact, holding my hand, asking me questions, and sharing their own stories after I had shown them pictures of my family and American life.



Living by myself away from family and friends was really the learning process of handling virtually every aspect of my life by myself. Emotionally I learned flexibility from moving from host family to host family, town-to-town, and working under constantly changing conditions. Every host I stayed with welcomed me into their home like I was part of their family. It was wonderful to experience the aspect of Japanese home life that most foreigners never get a chance to see.



Since the interns are issued cultural visas to live in Japan, we were able to select an aspect of the Japanese culture to study while in the country. Every week we had time to explore any area of the culture of interest. I chose to study the Buddhist and Shinto religions, and by the end of the year I had traveled to dozens of shrines, and learned more than I ever could have in any library or school. I found that as I learned about the Japanese culture and taught others about my own culture, I developed an even greater pride in the place I call home. When I first

entered the internship program, I never imagined the impact it would have on me as a person and the impact it would have on the way I view our world.

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LABO



INTERN PROGRAM



*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever."*

-Ghandi