

International Opportunities in UW Cooperative Extension

Benefits of international experience

Increased Awareness

"Our international experiences create opportunities to work with different countries, communities, cultures and environments. The knowledge we gain by traveling abroad and learning from others makes us better multicultural educators in our own back yards."

- Dean and Director Rick Klemme

"By increasing our understanding of the cultures of the world and interpreting this for our local clientele, the residents of Wisconsin will be able to make better-more informed decisions"

-Ken Shapiro,

University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Emeriti,
International economic development

"Our clientele or citizens will benefit from a greater understanding of the world in our increasingly global environment."

- District Director Missouri Extension.

Greater Understanding of Policy Options

By understanding how others have dealt with similar policy options, local communities can learn from failures and successes...

- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Negotiation and compromise
- Global food safety/security issues

Professional and Skill Development of Staff

- Familiar content to new audiences
- Learn alternative teaching techniques of professional colleagues
- Gain experience working with different cultures
- Build relationships with counterparts and clientele in a new country and with those from Wisconsin.

Accessible to Agents

- Short term assignments (usually 2 weeks)
- Non-tourist immersion into new culture
- Translation provided
- Get to know other colleagues from near and far
- Opportunities to travel with other UW Extension colleagues or small groups

Learning opportunities

- Flexible schedules
- Preparation time before, during, and after trips
- Some stress with out-of-country travel
- Debriefing time with Cooperative Extension and County committees
- Educating local communities: presentations, interviews, written publication



We live in a global society – what happens overseas impacts our lives here in the U.S....and our policies and actions certainly impact the world. Issues that transcend borders:

- Global Economy
- Food Security
- Climate Change
- Energy
- Health
- Extension must look beyond its borders to find solutions to community problems.
- Opportunity to learn about ourselves in a global context
- Opportunity to collaborate on complex global problems
- Immigration
- Water
- Invasive Species
- Homeland Security

Mission

The purpose of UW Extension Cooperative Extension international efforts is to contribute to the improvement of Wisconsin and international communities through the sharing of expertise and experiences

Vision

UW Extension Cooperative Extension will have a focused, vibrant, and active international program linking Wisconsin to the world to benefit our staff, communities, and international partners.

UW Extension Cooperative Extension International Vision and Mission approved by CEAC February, 2003



New Learning Environments New People New Places



Resources

University of Wisconsin – Extension
Cooperative Extension International Activities Resource Center



<http://fyi.uwex.edu/international>

When people from different cultures and countries get together for social, educational and research purposes, the participants benefit and the world becomes a better place.

The UW Extension – International Activities Resource Center intends to serve as a catalyst providing information, incentives and networking opportunities promoting international activities and understanding.

40 UW Extension faculty/staff have worked overseas in the past 5 years. There are many international scholarship opportunities for county, area and state educators. The International Activities Resource Center works to help develop networks, identify skills or knowledge that can be taught and/or matched with professional international opportunities.

There are also many benefits to educators that make them a better extension educator who strengthens our entire organization such as: new skills and new knowledge of processes, policies, content, and techniques.

Internationalizing Extension benefits both learners and partners – which is the purpose of our organization. Visit the website to find information about...

- Trip Reports
- Skill assessment tools and building your resume
- View international assignments and opportunities
- Working with a county board committee
- Expectations/trip follow-up

Contact Us



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Soil sampling with farmer cooperative members in Nicaragua.

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