



SLOVAK-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Internship. Opportunity.
Experience. Career. Prosperity.

Professional Internship Program

Fall 2011 Placements

The SAF Professional Internship Program brings recent college and graduate school students to the United States for a six-month or year-long internship of practical training at U.S. companies and organizations. The program is all-inclusive and allows participants to create their own career-defining success through hands-on learning experience in custom-sourced internship placements. Internships are arranged individually and focus on the participants' career objectives.



JANA BYSTRICKA

MAJOR: Business Management

COMPANY: Kurt Salmon, New York, NY

Jana is a goal-oriented and hardworking young graduate. One of her strongest professional features is her positive attitude and inner drive that she always applies to problem solving. Jana comes to the program with an extensive experience as an intern at one of the largest Slovak banks that she was selected for out of 300 applicants. Jana will do her internship at Kurt Salmon, New York. Kurt Salmon is a global management consultancy with presence in 15 countries. As trusted advisors, Kurt Salmon partners with clients to design, and then drive, strategies and solutions that make lasting and meaningful impact. Jana will support senior consultants in conducting research and drafting professional documents. She will have a chance to improve her problem solving skills and develop business writing, creativity, and research skills.

IMPACT:

Jana's long-term career goal is to establish her own consulting company in Slovakia. During her internship at Kurt Salmon she will witness how a global consultancy firm operates and will gain management consulting experience that will make her a successful entrepreneur.



PETER FRIDRICH

MAJOR: Operations Research and Econometrics

COMPANY: AON, New York, NY

Peter is an enthusiastic and energetic individual. He studies Operations Research and Econometrics program focusing on optimization of processes and economic forecasting. His professional focus is broad: not only does he manage his own financial portfolio, but he is also very interested in quantitative and qualitative management. An internship at AON is a perfect fit for him. AON is the world's leader in risk management, insurance, and reinsurance. There, Peter will have the opportunity to enhance his analytical skills and financial knowledge. He will also be involved in developing, sharing, and integrating new ideas within risk management and engineering department.

IMPACT:

Slovakia is a small and emerging country where significant political and economic reforms took place during its development. However, the country is still missing progressive financial leaders with foreign experience and ability to think "outside the box". The experience at AON will help Peter enhance and develop new approaches to risk management as well as gain broad knowledge on quantitative and qualitative analysis.



MARTIN HRUSOVSKY

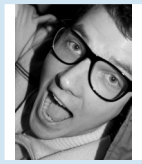
MAJOR: MSc in Applied Informatics

COMPANY: SAP Labs, Palo Alto, California

Martin will never forget his fourteenth birthday when he received as a gift his first computer. Ever since then, he has been fascinated by computers, aiming to understand them better and better. Martin's ambition and discipline deserve admiration. Coming from the small town of Sered, Martin worked full time at Tatra Bank, one of the major banks in Slovakia, while a full-time Master's student. Martin recently received his Master's in Applied Informatics as his special interest is IT architecture and system integration. His internship is at SAP Labs, the market leader in enterprise application software with a rich history of innovation and growth. SAP applications and services enable more than 176,000 customers worldwide to operate profitably, adapt continuously, and grow sustainably. At SAP Labs, Martin is going to take part in back-end architecture planning and implementation as well as development of consumer software products. The newly acquired experience and skills will help Martin in establishing his company upon return to Slovakia.

IMPACT:

Martin's ambitions are to open his own company providing IT services to small and medium-size businesses, impacting the development of Slovakia by creating work opportunities for young Slovaks.



MILOS MACURA

MAJOR: MSc in Economic Informatics

COMPANY: SAP Labs, Palo Alto, California

Milos is a fast learner, adaptive, innovative, and entrepreneurial. His interest in Computer Science started when he was only five years old, when he first used a computer. Ever since then, computers have been his passion, hobby, and work. This past summer Milos graduated with a Masters in Economic Informatics, and his specific interest lies in the application of system informatics for the sake of business development. Milos' internship is at SAP Labs, the market leader in enterprise application software with a rich history of innovation and growth. SAP applications and services enable more than 176,000 customers worldwide to operate profitably, adapt continuously, and grow sustainably. During his internship, Milos will be involved in Application Development Projects. More specifically, he will take part in full cycles of "rapid software development". With the experience from his internship, Milos will be able to set up his own company.

IMPACT:

Milos's ambitions are to set up his own company and positively influence companies in Slovakia by introducing innovation and a different mindset.



KATARINA ORSZAGHOVA

MAJOR: Civil Engineering

COMPANY: Hellmuth, Obata + Kassbaum (HOK), Washington, D.C.

Katarina is in her second year of PhD studies. She graduated in the Architecture and Urbanism program and is now continuing in the program Theory and Structures of Buildings. She already has many of the key skills and knowledge of a good architect and has won a few very prestigious awards for her projects. She actively participates in national and international professional courses to advance her education and gain any additional knowledge she can. Katarina will do her internship at HOK, an architectural company that has been planning and designing complex projects for more than 55 years. They have a global reputation for delivering affordable, well-built and inspiring work. HOK is an industry leader in the implementation and advanced use of building information modeling (BIM) and their building SMART approach combines powerful new software design tools with emerging Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) methods to deliver faster, better buildings. The internship at HOK will provide Katarina a complete well-rounded and in-depth experience of the U.S. architectural and design profession and construction standards.

IMPACT:

Once she returns to Slovakia, Katarina would like to provide training to companies and engineering students for 3-D AutoCAD as only 2-D is currently used there. She already has a tangible project (international workshop) in building conservation in Bratislava and would like to continue that as well.



MONIKA PAGACOVA

MAJOR: Personnel Management

COMPANY: American Airlines (AA), Fort Worth, TX

IMPACT:

The internship at AA will provide Monika with valuable experience and will teach her new HR techniques that are not yet widely used in Slovakia. This knowledge will help her to adopt the Western style of HR Management in Slovakia which will improve workplaces and result in happier employees.

Monika has always been one of the top students. She has always worked hard to achieve her goals and carries a great attitude with each task. Prior to the SAF program, Monika had a few internships in Spain and the U.S. that added valuable professional experience to her excellent academic achievements. Monika's overall goal is to improve Slovak workplaces by putting a high emphasis on the importance of having internationally trained Human Resources professionals, since the HR techniques are far more advanced in the U.S. and Western European countries than they are in Slovakia. Monika will have a unique opportunity to train at American Airlines, one of the world's largest airline companies. She will get a chance to be involved with many aspects of HR, including compensation, performance reviews, recruiting, internal policies development, and other tasks.



ZUZANA ZUZIOVA

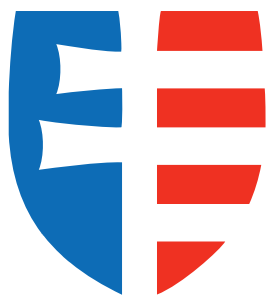
MAJOR: Architecture and Urbanism, PhD

COMPANY: Project for Public Spaces, New York City, NY

IMPACT:

Slovakia is in need of entrepreneurial people like Zuzana who can improve public space. Zuzana's aim is to turn Bratislava into a more livable city, which will attract more businesses and tourists. She also wants Bratislava to become more pleasant for its habitants by adding street furniture, city fountains, and barrier-free public buildings.

Zuzana is a very ambitious high achiever who wants to make a change in her country. She graduated in 2007 with a Master's degree in Product Design at the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak University of Technology, receiving the prestigious Rector's Award for Best Student. Afterwards, she enrolled in a PhD program in Architecture and Urbanism, from which she recently graduated. Zuzana's internship is at Project for Public Spaces, a nonprofit planning, design, and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. At her Host Organization, Zuzana will increase her knowledge of the basic elements that create a successful place. She will also learn more about the role that successful public places play in community revitalization. Upon completion of her internship, Zuzana is going to be well equipped with new skills and techniques that will help her fulfill her dream to make Slovakia a better place to live in.



SLOVAK-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Internship. Opportunity.
Experience. Career. Prosperity.

Research Scholar Program

Fall 2011 Placements

SAF provides fellowships for one professor or academic researcher to conduct an independent or collaborative research project in the U.S. for up to one year.

The Research Scholar Program is meant to foster the exchange of ideas between Slovakia and the U.S. and to stimulate international collaboration and research efforts. It promotes interchange, mutual enrichment, and experiential sharing, further strengthening ties between the nations and providing invaluable career and personal development opportunities for participants to leverage in their leadership roles upon their return to Slovakia and their home institution.



MAREK NEMCOVIC

MAJOR: MSc in Economic Informatics

INSTITUTION: La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology, San Diego, California

RESEARCH PROJECT: The biochemical and structural characterization of key components in cross regulation between herpes viruses and the TNF superfamily members.

SUMMARY: Marek Nemcovic will spend a year at the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology. Work at La Jolla Institute has led to discovery of several members of tumor necrosis factors (TNC) and cytokine superfamily and signaling circuitry. The importance of these signaling pathways is apparent in the diversity of physiological systems dependent upon their function. Recent studies suggest that TNF superfamily members have crucial roles in controlling herpes virus (HHV) infection by mediating the direct killing of infected cells and enhancing immune responses. The primary focus of the project is directed to understanding the structure-function, signaling pathways, and clinical utility of TNF superfamily cytokines and viral tegument proteins. The project includes characterization of protein-protein interaction derived from TNF/TNFR, co-signaling network, and preparation of appropriate protein complexes for crystallographic studies. Elucidation of these interactions by X-ray crystallography should shed significant light upon the cross regulation between herpes viruses and the TNF superfamily members. The major goal of Marek Nemcovic's project is to develop new approaches for the treatment of persistent virus infections.

IMPACT:

By gaining knowledge and skills to perform X-ray-crystallography as well as several key biochemical techniques, Marek Nemcovic will advance not only his own development, but also the Slovak Academy of Sciences, which is hoping to develop its own crystallographic facilities. There is already an intense study into human glycoproteins at SAS, and the project on which Marek will concentrate is also focusing on that area. His visit may also lead to productive future collaboration between La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology and the Slovak Academy of Science, which will have a large impact for the Slovak Academy of Sciences and science in the European Union in general.