

## **Wisconsin in Scotland Internships**

### **A Summary of Possibilities for Students Applying for Placement**

Below is a list of types of sites where students have been placed in recent years. There is no guarantee that students can be placed at all these sites in future years. Experience shows that many placements are easier to find and work better if students are willing to free up at least one full day a week for the internship. In some cases two half-day per week placements may be possible or preferable. Be aware that an internship involves a commitment on your part to act in a dependable and professional manner and to work the required hours. Three credit internships require **at least** 90 hours of work or about 8-9 hours per week over 10-11 weeks. If you do not want to make this type of time commitment consider a volunteer experience as an alternative.

Please note that it is easier to find placements for students if they clearly specify in their application the type of placement or work experience they would like, what specifically they hope to learn, and what skills and experience they would bring to such a placement. A good resume detailing their relevant education, work and volunteer experience is essential. Many placements require significant lead time so early application is strongly encouraged.

#### **Types of Placements**

**Midlothian Public Schools** - Students majoring in education have usually been accepted for placements in local primary, secondary and special needs schools.

**After-School Clubs** - Students in education, social work or other fields who are interested in working with young children (ages 5-13) may be placed in after-school care clubs. These clubs provide a safe after-school environment for children of working parents and offer a variety of activities for children such as sport, art, games, reading, etc.

**Outdoor Education** - There are several organizations in the Edinburgh area that use outdoor education as a tool to teach team building, self confidence, trust and other social skills to excluded children and youth. Placements may be possible during the school day, evenings and/or weekends. These sites are suitable for students with a background in social work, physical education or others with an interest in outdoor activities and working with excluded children.

**Government Operated Children's Homes** - Students in social work or related fields with interest in working with disadvantaged or abused children in residential settings.

**Dialogue Youth and Other Youth Clubs** - Students interested in social work, recreation, art, drama, web page design, or just interacting with young people may be able to get placements with local organizations working with young people in Edinburgh and Dalkeith. Clubs often work with youth who are "excluded" because of family neglect or abuse, disabilities, sexual orientation, refugee status, race, poverty, etc.

**Community Centers for the Elderly and Adults with Mental Illness or Physical or Learning Disabilities** - These are day care or drop in centers that organize educational and other care activities for these populations.

**Nursing Homes** - There are several nursing centers offering opportunities for students who are certified as nurses aides, are in pre-physical therapy or who just want to work with the elderly or children and adults with disabilities.

**National Health Service Clinics and Hospitals** - Students in nursing, speech therapy, occupational or physical therapy or related medical fields might find placements.

**Pharmacy** - Students with experience in a pharmacy might be able to get placements in a local pharmacy or hospital. A Spring 2004 student was placed at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh. Such placements are competitive.

**Gorgie City Farm Project** - An educational "farm" in the inner city for children and people with disabilities. Has a small animal lodge with a variety of birds and small animals as well as a few cattle, horses, goats, sheep, etc. Might be suitable for students in animal science and agriculture who want experience in small animal care and working with visitors.

**Edinburgh Equestrian Center or Other Horse Stables** - A farm and livery stable on the Dalkeith estate which boards over 100 horses. Suitable for animal science students wanting experience with large animal care, mucking out stables, and observing the livery stable business. Some experience with horses desirable. Might be combined with periodic visits to a local veterinary clinic.

**Veterinary Clinics or Hospitals** - Opportunity for pre-vet students to gain some experience observing and assisting in a local vet clinic. Could be combined with work at Gorgie City Farm or a stable. Number of placements is limited as clinics also give placements to students from The University of Edinburgh Veterinary School.

**Edinburgh Zoo** - The zoo places zoology interns from local universities; so, early application by WIS students is essential. Might be suitable for animal science or re-vet students with experience working with animals. This is a competitive site.

**Animal Shelters** - Students in animal science or just interested in working with dogs, cats and other small animals.

**Butterfly and Insect World at Dobbie Gardens** - Several biology students have had placements at this small insect farm and garden center near Dalkeith. Used by local schools.

**Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh** - Suitable for horticulture students who can free up at least one full day per week; in fact, they prefer a more compact schedule over a shorter period of time. A competitive site so placements may be difficult to arrange.

**Environmental Studies, Ecology and Education** - Students interested in environmental science, from either a research or educational perspective, might find placements with local environmental organizations. There are also opportunities for work in forestry and plant biology on the Dalkeith estate.

**Scottish Mining Museum** - This is located in Newtongrange, a short bus ride from Dalkeith. A geology student was placed here in 2001. Might be opportunities for students from many fields.

**National Museum of Scotland, Historic Scotland, Scottish National Art Galleries and Various Historic Trusts** - Might be opportunities for students majoring in art or design, history, archaeology, museum management, and the like. A visual arts student was placed at the museum in 2001.

**Local Newspapers** - May be opportunities for students with skills and experience in photography, and journalism to get placements with the Edinburgh or local newspapers. These are competitive sites and may require considerable lead time to arrange placements.

**Local (Midlothian or Edinburgh) or Scottish Government or Political Parties** - Students with interest and background in political science, management and business have been placed with local councils or the Scottish Parliament in previous semesters. Might also be opportunities for students with background and experience in policy areas such as social work, environment, and transportation and other policy areas. These are competitive sites.

**Peace and Justice Work** - Students interested in peace and social justice work can obtain placements as volunteers in non-profit organizations in Edinburgh.

**Accounting, Finance and Management** - Business students have been placed with a local accounting firm in 2003 and in non-profit organizations in past years.

**Marketing and Public Relations** - Students in marketing, public relations and communication studies who have experience and computer skills might find placements with local non-profit organizations and businesses. A student was placed with a start-up company in Spring, 2004.

**Graphic Design Work and Photography** - Visual arts or graphic design students have been placed with local firms or and non-profit organizations to design marketing or educational brochures.

**Theatre Sites** - Students may be able to get placements dealing with a variety of work in theatres such as stage management, technical operations such as light and sound and marketing.

**Computer and Other Special Skills** - It may be possible to place students with special skills and experience in a variety of sites depending on quality of these skills and the needs of the organization. Some examples might be data base management, web page design, photography, music, sports, etc. A local computer training company is looking for interns.

**General** - It should be possible to locate other types of internships than those mentioned above. Be creative. Propose your own internship based on your interests, skills and experience and the staff at Dalkeith House will try to locate a site for you.