Visas for Internships Abroad

Visas are probably the most complicated component of your international internship experience. This is a brief document to start you thinking about it, but is by no means a comprehensive guide. Please note that visas options and requirements vary greatly so these types may not be applicable, but will give you an idea of some possibilities. IIP can help troubleshoot what may be required for your situation, though we are not experts in every location and you are responsible for securing the appropriate visa!

**Tourist Visa/Visa Waiver**
Some countries will allow students to do internships of less than 90 days on a tourist visa or a visa waiver (i.e. you receive the visa/landing permit upon entry without applying in advance). Often you cannot be paid if you are taking advantage of this.

**Student Visas**
If you are already studying abroad or taking a class with your internship you may be able to apply for a student visa. Ask questions about the restrictions. You may have a limited number of hours you are eligible to intern. There may be restrictions on whether you can be paid or not. Often you have to be getting credit from an institution located in the country where you are interning.

**Internship Visas**
Some countries have a specific category for internships that will be specified on their consulate website. These may allow payment. In some cases they may also require that the internship be for academic credit or a required part of your degree (and therefore you cannot get one post-graduation).

**Business Visas**
Some countries may have a business visa that is allowed for internships as well. You should confirm whether or not this allows payment. Generally a Work visa (as opposed to Business) will be more targeted toward permanent employment than a temporary internship and not be possible.

**Work Permit/Work Authorization**
In addition to a particular visa, some countries may require you to acquire a work permit to receive any remuneration for your internship. These are separate applications from the initial visa application. There are some companies that will (for a fee) help with visas/work authorization for students who have found their own internships.

**International Students**
You may have different visa requirements than U.S. students. Most commonly, you may not be eligible to enter a country on a tourist visa/visa waiver and will require a different application. Be sure to find information relevant to your nationality. You also need to confirm that your visa for the U.S. is still valid for your re-entry after the internship abroad.

**Resources**
Check out GoinGlobal (paid account available through your BuckyNet/myECS log-in) for country profiles which include information on visa requirements for working and interning. Look up the local Consulate (often in Chicago) for the country you are looking at and carefully read through their visa information.