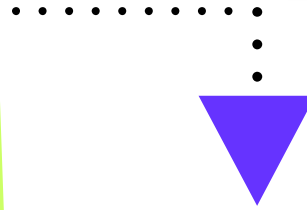


Tips on How to Select an IPSS Organization



#1 Take Advantage of your Specialization!

Select an organization and work within that organization so that you fulfill the goals of your approved specialization (e.g., nonproliferation, international development, human rights, conflict resolution, etc.) Some assignments will be multidimensional or more general. That's fine. You may not have decided to be a specialist on a particular issue.

#2 Pick an International, Transnational, or Regional Organization

The focus of the work of the organization must be international or transnational. Regional organizations qualify. If it is an NGO, it must have a cross-national or cross-cultural dimension. Since IPSS is about gaining practical professional experience in managing and addressing transnational social problems, positions or organizations focusing on mainly research are not the type we have in mind for IPSS. This is not to say that a position as an analyst is out. To the contrary, we advertise to organizations that in fact you have excellent research and analytical skills. What we want to avoid is assigning you to think tanks, university centers, etc.

#3 Do you have Prior Internship Experience?

You may have served in a field branch of a larger international governmental organization (IGO) during your summer internship. You will obviously have a better chance of adapting to a larger organization if this is the case.

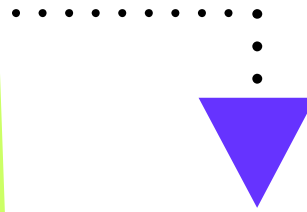
#4 Utilize the IPSS and GSIPS Network

Consider applying to an organization where GSIPS students have previously served, either IPSS or a summer internship. This will optimize your chance of getting assigned at one of these organizations. Between IPSS and the GSIPS career office we maintain contact with more than 100 organizations. Check the IPSS website for a list of organizations where IPSS fellows have served.

#5 Connect through Faculty

Many faculty members have contacts in international organizations- IGOs and NGOs. Consult with them.

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#6 Stick with a Region or Country or Language

You may also wish to go to a specific region or country. The IPSS team and individual faculty members can assist you in identifying organizations on this dimension. Remember that the "language of work" in that organization/country may have a direct impact on your acceptance. Local NGOs and local/national branches of IGOs may require specific languages of work. Also remember that the *lingua franca* at most of the larger UN agencies is English.

#7 Think about your career beyond IPSS and MIIS

Consider your professional networking needs in selecting an organization--what are you seeking in the way of resources, contacts, opportunities for language study, etc. over and above the professional development component?

#8 Saving Costs

Consider the feasibility of funding your personal expenses in a given location--perhaps there are organizations of relevance in a city/location where you have family members or friends who could offer modest accommodations, etc. Perhaps an organization of relevance exists in a city/location where the cost of living is more manageable than a major metropolitan area. Field assignments always cost less than headquarters assignments.

#9 Difficult Entry?

Consider visa needs--check the embassy websites for countries you are considering...perhaps there are challenges for citizens of one country to procure a visa in that country. REMEMBER: You will likely need a work permit. While in most cases the receiving organizations could assist in making arrangements for you, the responsibility to secure the necessary visa requirements is yours.

#10 Plan for the Unexpected

Not everyone gets placed in their first choice organization. Also, a few students receive their final placement up to one week before departure. Flexibility and patience is key. Having a plan B, C, and sometimes D will facilitate placement, if needed, in your second or third choice organizations.