Exploring Gap Year Opportunities

Cornell Career Services

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Where Are You At Now?

- Understand Yourself
  - Interests
  - Values
  - Strengths
  - Goals

- Develop Your Focus
- Explore Options
  - Resources
  - Networking
  - Activities
  - Internships

- Take Action
  - Applications
  - Letters
  - Resumes
  - Interviews
A foundation of self-awareness.

What do you want?

What do you need?

Ask yourself…

Why would gap year work well for you?

Define your *goals* and *purpose* to filter your options.

Develop focus:
- Know yourself and your aim
- What is interesting, possible and meets your needs?
- Specialization within field?
- Geographic preferences?
- Paid programs vs. tuition costs?
WHEN WILL I HAVE FEWER OBLIGATIONS THAN I DO RIGHT NOW?

WHAT DO I WANT TO EXPERIENCE AFTER COLLEGE? WHY?

DO I HAVE NON-NEGOTIABLE PRIORITIES?

EXPLORE EVALUATE ENGAGE
Explore
Evaluate
Engage

Research will serve you well. Consider Programs that will meet your needs and pique your interest

✧ Reputable, Safe Programs: read about former participant’s experiences and partners of the program you are considering
✧ Cost and Funding
✧ Program requirements, commitments, benefits, and expectations
  ✧ Time commitment
  ✧ Eligibility and Criteria
✧ Application Components, Interviews
✧ Locations
✧ Health Care?
✧ Housing
✧ Travel
  ✧ Passports?
  ✧ Travel Insurance?
  ✧ Visas?
Research... where to start?
CCNet

Update Profile

Sign up for Email Alerts
The main career library, 103 Barnes Hall, serves all Cornell students. It is one of the largest in the country, consisting of approximately 605 books, 518 websites, MP3s, and paper files of career development resources; information on law schools, medical schools, and other graduate programs; and test prep materials. There are three kiosks for conducting library database searches in 103 Barnes Hall as well as a media room for accessing the web, printing information, and using other media. Hours are 8:00 am—4:30 pm, Monday—Friday, year-round. Numerous additional on-line resources can be found in the Link Library.

Also, each College Career Office has a career library with resources relating specifically to the academic offerings of that college. Several have career library databases (see the links below).

- Search Barnes Career Library
- Search CALS Career Library
- Search Human Ecology Career Library
- Link Library
Search for resources and email yourself results to look through when you have time.

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<tr>
<td>500 Places Where You Can Make A Difference</td>
<td>IN 300</td>
<td>Book</td>
<td>International (IN)</td>
<td>103 Barnes Hall Bookshelves</td>
<td>Short-term and long-term opportunities for doing good in locations around the world.</td>
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<td>A Broader View Volunteers</td>
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Once you have found organizations, visit their website, follow them on social media, including Facebook and LinkedIn for on-going updates.
DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The Urban Assembly seeks a creative, experienced and mission-driven professional to join the Development Team at an exciting time in the organization’s history that includes: New schools creation in 2014-15, including a ground-breaking...

Last updated DECEMBER 20, 2013

ClassiCorps -- start a teaching career at an NYC Charter School

Classical Charter Schools prepares K-8th grade students in the South Bronx to excel in college-preparatory high schools. Through a classical curriculum and highly structured setting, students become liberated scholars and citizens of impeccable character who achieve p...

Last updated FEBRUARY 4, 2014
Resources: International Work

✧ Work permits.

✧ Start early with search.

✧ Assess your language skills and learn about target country’s culture.

✧ Check our Working Abroad page:  
  http://www.career.cornell.edu/students/gap/options/abroad.cfm

✧ Use all means for your search such as CCNet, LinkedIn, libraries, etc.

✧ Bunac.org:  http://bunac.org/
What’s next?

✧ Keep longer term goals in mind
  ✧ If grad school is your goal…
    ✧ flexibility to take prerequisite courses during program?
  ✧ Truly a bridge to next phase of your life?
  ✧ Applicable professional experience?
    ✧ Opportunity to gain transferrable skills?
  ✧ Any obligations to consider?
    ✧ Financial?
      ✧ Insurance?
    ✧ Loans?
    ✧ Bills?
  ✧ Familial?
  ✧ Health?
  ✧ Geographic Requirements?
Short-Term and Long-Term Benefits
Gaining Transferrable Skills
Broadening Network

Investing in Leaders

Developing Leaders
We provide intensive training, support and career development that helps these leaders increase their impact and deepen their understanding of what it takes to close the achievement gap.

Rigorous national studies and statewide studies
in Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee concluded that Teach For America corps members have a greater impact on student achievement than new teachers.

My experience in the classroom has been transformative not just for my students but also for me as a person and as a professional.

Alejandro Gac-Artigas
Greater Philadelphia 2009
Training and Support

Training for Service

Most of your time as a City Year corps member will be spent delivering service to students in high-need schools. A portion of your time, however, is focused on trainings designed to prepare you to powerfully achieve service impact with students and develop as a leader. Although some details may vary from site to site, here’s a general overview of what to expect from your training experiences at City Year.

Basic Training Academy (BTA)

The year begins with this 3-4 week onboarding experience designed to launch you on your City Year journey. You’ll be introduced to City Year’s mission, culture, and values, as well as our powerful approach to addressing the nation’s high school dropout crisis. You will learn the details of our service and leadership development models, as well as the roles and regulations that pertain to serving as a City Year corps member.

You’ll have the opportunity to visit schools we partner with, and experience working with students. Finally, you’ll have time for team building activities that allow you to really get to know your peers and local City Year staff.

Basic Training Retreat (BTR)

As part of BTA, your entire corps will head to an offsite location (a summer camp or retreat center) for 2-3 days of team building, reflection, and training.

It is also the time when most corps members are divided up into their service teams for the first time. You may enter BTR as a group of strangers, but you are sure to emerge with a much greater understanding of each other, yourselves, and the social issues that City Year aspires to impact.

Learning and Development Days (LDDs)

Although the frequency of Learning and Development Days varies by site, a minimum of an entire Friday each month will be an LDD focused on providing you with ongoing training and development.
Networking...
connect with people and organizations to gain insights about programs
Financial implications?

Tuition vs. Cost to Attend or Participate

Financial Restrictions?

Supplemental Income Necessary?
   Is that allowed?

Tax implications?

Examples:
   AmeriCorps Education Award considered toward taxable income
   Outward Bound
   AmeriCorps Education Award accepted for tuition costs
**Preparing Application Materials?**

**We can Help!**

**Resume and Cover Letter Critiques, Advising**

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<td>103 &amp; 203 Barnes</td>
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<td>Agriculture and Life Sciences</td>
<td>140 Roberts</td>
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<td>Engineering</td>
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<td>Hotel Administration</td>
<td>180 Statler</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/students/careers/">www.hotelschool.cornell.edu/students/careers/</a></td>
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Nonprofit and Government Career Fair
February 27, 2014    1:00pm – 5:00 pm
Ballroom, Statler Hotel
Questions?
Comments?