

## **Overview of the Lehigh in Prague Practicum/Internship Program (ver. 4 May, 2012)**

**Lehigh in Prague, a summer term academic program, is now in its eighteenth successful year, with internships since 2001. The directors, Professors Jim Hall, Dick Barsness, and Sharon Kalafut along with Petr Balcar (LU G'94) are interested in expanding opportunities for cooperation in Prague with businesses with international dimensions.**

### **Program Objective:**

To provide Lehigh University students with a meaningful international business experience in the areas of Computer Science and Business (CSB), Business Information Systems (BIS), Finance, Accounting, Economics, Management or Marketing.

Note: Other majors in Arts, Sciences, Engineering are welcome to apply (e.g., Political Science, International Relations, History; Engineering, Industrial, Mechanical, Civil, etc).

### **Skills and Educational Background**

**Typical participating CSB, BIS or accounting majors will have this type of background. Other majors would have studied similar discipline-specific courses:**

- Students, preferably, should have third-year standing and major in the subject of the internship.
- They have had formal exposure to data modeling and process modeling techniques including entity relationship diagramming, data flow diagramming, functional decomposition diagramming, and flowcharting.
- The participants will have had, or will take concurrently, a course in Accounting Information Systems (AIS) in which they study business processes, transaction processing systems, information technology, database design, internal control theory and application, and electronic commerce.
- a course in Java, Visual Basic, or C++ is useful but not required.

### **Commitment by the Participating Firm**

- The firm will place the students on a project team(s) or with an internship supervisor where they will have the opportunity to apply the analyses and applications skills that they learned in the classroom.
- Typically, two or more students are placed with a firm, which improves the internship experience for the firm and students.
- The experience usually occupies **three & a half work days per week (M, T, W, Th)** for the total period of **one month**, typically **mid-May through mid-June**.

### **Other Relevant Points**

- The students will be selected from the pool of applicants based on their grades in key courses, interpersonal characteristics, and communication skills.
- Lehigh faculty members are present in Prague to advise students and coordinate with the firm supervisor.
- Internships do not require knowledge of the Czech language.

- Students do not receive payment from the company; they receive Lehigh academic credit and a letter of evaluation / recommendation from the sponsor company, if relevant.
- Some students travel over the week ends, around the Czech Republic or abroad.

We expect that providing these prepared students with a real-world international business experience such as this will produce lasting benefits for both the students and the firm. We thank our participating firms for considering them for this valuable opportunity.

## **Lehigh in Prague Internship Opportunities**

During 2001-2011 about 320 students have interned in Prague at more than 25 global and national firms in following industries:

- Public Accounting
- Consulting
- Energy
- Banking
- Insurance
- Software Development
- Private Equity
- Marketing
- IT Operations
- Construction
- Financial Services

The internship Topics have included:

- Accounting
- Computer Science
- Finance
- General Business
- Engineering
- Risk Management
- Auditing
- HR
- Legal
- Marketing
- Economics
- Internal Controls