



World Internship Project

Experience ✈ Experiment ✈ Exchange

A Gap Year For All

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What is LEX?

The Institute for Language Experience, Experiment, and Exchange (LEX) was founded in 1981 by Yo Sakakibara, a Japanese educator who sought to nurture multilingualism and multiculturalism. With independent offices in Japan, Mexico, Korea, and the United States, LEX provides immersion-style multilingual language learning programs – also known as language clubs – for individuals and families, as well as international exchanges and educational publishing.

We believe in providing a language-learning environment that is based on mutual exchange and cooperation, and strive to create a fun and supportive atmosphere in our programs. LEX currently produces language learning materials in 21 different languages, including Chinese, French, Japanese, and Spanish, and we are always looking to add more options to our repertoire.



The LEX World Internship Project (WIP) is a volunteer exchange program that provides participants with the opportunity to work in an overseas LEX office. Interns can choose among Japan, Mexico, Korea, and the United States, and will spend 1-3 months immersing themselves in the rhythms of daily life.

Each internship experience is tailored to the interests of the participants and the needs of the office at the time, but interns can expect to play an active role in the language clubs and to act as cultural ambassadors of their country. The different LEX organizations also run various events over the course of the year to promote intercultural understanding and foreign language acquisition, ranging from youth camps to speech competitions, so you can be sure that there will never be a dull moment in the office!

LEX World Internship Project

The Internship Experience

The first steps you take as a LEX intern will be with your host family — all WIP participants will engage in a home stay with one or more families, allowing them to truly immerse themselves in the culture and language of the country. As members of LEX, these families play a key role in familiarizing interns to the various activities and events in the organization, while providing a warm and welcoming place for interns to return to after a long day at the office.



“My host family has opened their house and their hearts to me to become my gateway to all things Japanese.”

~ Michael, Wisconsin

HOST FAMILIES

The LEX offices are always bustling with life and filled with a myriad of different languages: you may be speaking Spanish at one moment, Japanese at another, before rounding it off with some Thai. However, don't let the multilingual environment intimidate you — our focus is on exchanging our knowledge through our shared experiences, and everyone at LEX is actively engaging in both learning from and sharing with one another. Expect to work on various cultural presentations, event-planning, proofreading English translations, or marketing. You can also look forward to meeting a hodgepodge of visitors from different countries and cultures as they pass through our offices!

OFFICE LIFE



The Internship Experience

At the very heart of LEX are the language clubs: immersive language sessions that are the product of our founder Yo Sakakibara's vision. Using our unique audio materials, these clubs (also known as 'families') combine community language learning with songs, dances, and activities in order to enhance the language acquisition process. There are no teachers or structured lessons — rather, members focus on learning from one another with the help of a facilitator, tapping into our shared knowledge and engaging with a variety of languages in a fun and supportive environment. A typical club will find members mimicking the sounds of different languages, using these languages in conversation, or simply taking part in the various games and dances integral to LEX.



LANGUAGE CLUBS

When you join LEX, you become part of a family — be it at your home stay, in the office, or at the language clubs, we want you to feel like you belong. The WIP Program focuses on bringing interns an authentic experience in the country of their choice so that they can see the world through fresh eyes. You might find yourself at a karaoke booth belting out Japanese hits in Tokyo, marveling at the historic landmarks of Mexico City, or wandering the night markets in Seoul. Wherever you choose to go, you can be sure that you will be welcomed with open arms and open hearts.

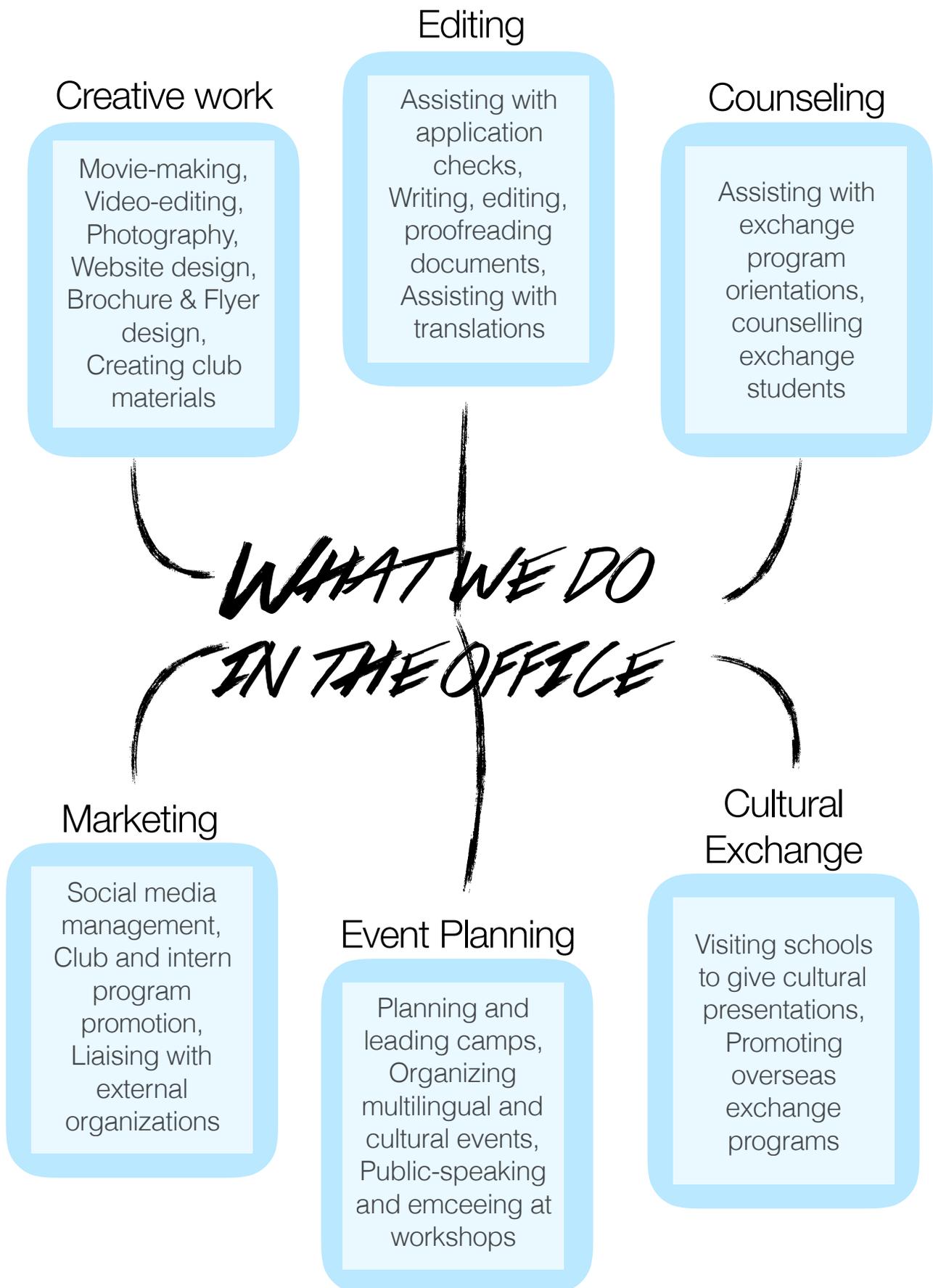
"LEX is a great organization to work with, both in the office and with the 'families'. I loved experiencing Japanese work life as well as play time."

~ Justin, Oregon

IMMERSION



Work Scope



Intern Specials

Our team welcomes interns from all over the world, which gives us the chance to try out a range of multilingual and multicultural activities. Here are some of the special programs we have gotten to put on as a result!



Multilingual Friends Park is an immersive environment that invites participants to speak in as many languages as possible, while encouraging them to think about their own language acquisition process. Interns plan games and activities that encourage participants to play around with various languages, give presentations about their experiences with language, and work towards creating a warm, multilingual environment!



Online Hippo is a monthly livestreaming activity that aims to connect with Hippo members around the world. Broadcasted from both the Tokyo and Mexico offices, interns and members alike join up in front of the camera to enjoy a digital language club! Long distance members can then tune into the broadcast and take part in the activities together, bringing us all closer together regardless of how far away we might be.



MuNalImmer Kids

Short for Multilingual Natural Immersion, this program is aimed at children aged 0-4 years and their parents. We create a multilingual environment with the help of our interns, giving participants exposure to songs and games in many languages! These activities are currently run in the Tokyo and Mexico offices.



LEX Seasons

LEX always changes with the seasons! Here are just some of the events we've been up to at different times of the year.



Multilingual Snow Camp

In the month of March, we bundle up and head over to Snow Country in Japan for a week of fun with over 600 youth from 15 countries!

spring



Mexican Congreso

When August rolls around, Mexico City becomes a hub for participants to enjoy a language and cultural exchange.

summer



Community Events

As the holiday season draws closer, US members start getting festive! Interns may find themselves planning special events for the community.

fall

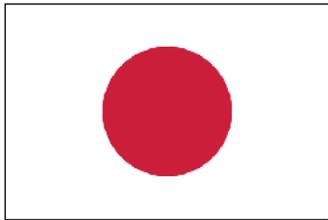


LEX Multilingual Project

The LMP, a multilingual speech competition in the style of TED talks, is held in Tokyo and draws youth from all over Asia.

winter

Where are we located?



Tokyo



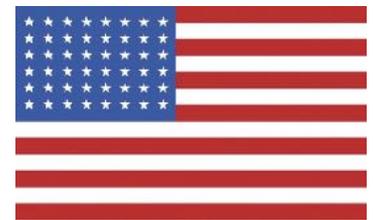
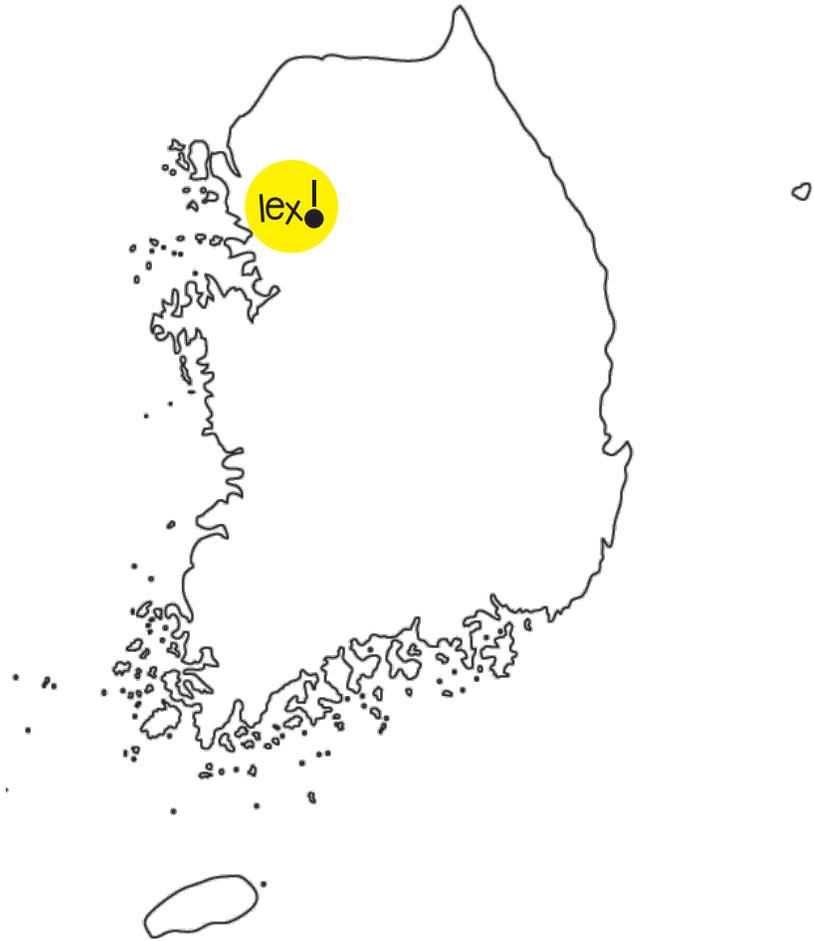
Mexico City



Where are we located?



Seoul



Cambridge, MA

The locations mentioned above are where all participants will start their internships. However, interns may be sent to different areas of their respective countries after the initial orientation period.

How to Apply

Requirements

The WIP Program accepts interns aged 18 and above from all backgrounds and walks of life. We are looking for applicants who express enthusiasm and interest in different languages and cultures, who are open to new experiences, and who can adapt to the needs of the host organization. While we focus heavily on multilingualism, knowing more than one language is not a requirement, although it is an advantage.

Deadlines

Applications for the program are accepted on a rolling basis and must be received at least 4 months before the requested start date. The forms can be found at www.lexlrf.org under 'Exchange Programs'.

Program Fees

	4 weeks	8 weeks	12 weeks
Japan	\$2,945	\$3,795	\$4,595
Korea	\$2,945	\$3,795	\$4,595
Mexico	\$2,425	\$2,995	\$3,645
United States	\$2,945	\$3,795	\$4,595

Fees include:

- Pre-departure orientation and support throughout the program
- Accommodations with one or more carefully selected host families
- A host family stipend of approximately \$100 per week (varies according to receiving country)
- Medical insurance and travel insurance
- Administrative fees

Fees do **not** include:

- Airfare
- Passport / Visa Fees
- Transportation to and from your arrival and departure airport
- Hotel nights
- Living expenses in the host country (meals taken away from the host family, transport, miscellaneous spending)

All prices are given in US Dollars.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I still apply even if I am not a LEX member?

We accept interns from all over the world, regardless of whether or not they are LEX members. However, applicants should take note of which LEX office they should apply to – this will depend on where the applicant is residing and the office they wish to intern in. This brochure is for citizens and residents of the U.S. going overseas, and those from countries without LEX offices who will be coming to the U.S.

Can I still apply even I am not a citizen/resident of the US?

All citizens and residents of the U.S. and Canada must apply through LEX America. Citizens and residents of Japan must apply through the LEX Institute in Japan; citizens and residents of Mexico must apply through LEX Mexico; citizens and residents of South Korea must apply through Hippo Korea. Others should apply directly to the LEX office in their destination country.

For example, a U.S. citizen seeking to intern in the Tokyo office should apply through LEX America. Meanwhile, a resident of France looking to intern in the Tokyo office should apply directly to LEX Japan.

How do I apply to the Japan / Mexico / Korea office?*

Instructions for applying to the individual offices can be found on their respective websites. Links to their homepages can be found on our website, www.lexlrf.org.

* If the applicant is not a citizen/resident of the U.S. or Canada

Is it possible to extend my internship beyond 12 weeks?

It may be possible with a volunteer or cultural visa, but this also depends on the individual's circumstances and the host country.

Is LEX able to sponsor my internship?

LEX is unable to provide financial aid for those seeking to participate in the WIP Program. However, we have compiled a list of funding sources to which applicants can refer. Please visit www.lexlrf.org or email info@lexlrf.org for more information.

Testimonials



I thought that settling into a new lifestyle might be somewhat of a chore, but my host family has been so accommodating — they made me feel at home from the minute I met them.

Catherine, Minnesota

During my internship, I've had many chances to reflect on my path of life I've walked along so far. It has enabled me to think about what kind of future I'd want to pursue and what kind of career I'd be passionate about as I move on to the next chapter of life.

Taemin, Michigan



My internship in Mexico was an amazing experience, and it was there that I was introduced to the LEX activities and the huge international family that is LEX. I met so many wonderful LEX members who opened their homes and hearts to me and became my true friends and family.

Stephanie, Wisconsin



Testimonials



LEX language clubs are so much fun! It is a place where people of all ages come together to enjoy singing, dancing, playing games, and best of all, learning as many as 21 different languages naturally!

Jessica, Maine



It was great experience for me. I could meet a lot of people and languages. Also it was really nice to spend time with my host families. Everyone who I met at the LEX clubs is really kind. They always wanted to know my languages, experience and who I am.

Genya, Japan

Apply now for the experience of a lifetime!



Contact Us

你好！

¡Hola!

Bonjour!

안녕하세요!

здравствуйте!

こんにちは!

Guten Tag!