

Manual partners overseas

**1.0**



ZUYD UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



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# Introduction

YPO facilitates and stimulates internships and graduation projects overseas, specialized in three regions Zambia, South Africa and India. Specific characteristics of the programme are Multidisciplinary, sustainable, prepared and safe and demand-driven.

The YPO team exists out of a multidisciplinary group of Zuyd staff, which represent one or more specific Zuyd faculties. The program is a strongly process-driven and with many standardized elements (YPO-cycle).

# Vocabulary

To avoid misconceptions in terminology, we provide the following expressions

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Host organisation | Organization where internship or graduation project takes place |
| On-site Supervisor | The supervisor at the organisation or company during the internship or graduation project |
| Student – intern | The student who will follow the internship or graduation project |
| Educational institution | Zuyd University |
| Educational Supervisor | Supervisor at Zuyd University during internship or graduation project |
| YPO | The student company Young Professionals Overseas |
| Contact person YPO | Coordinator visiting Country |

# History of Young Professionals Overseas

After the Tsunami in 2004 Zuyd University Health Care Department started multidisciplinary projects overseas in the South East region of India. Simultaneously other groups of students went to South Africa and to Zambia to do similar types of projects. An increasing number of students were interested in multidisciplinary projects in continents like Africa and India

# Young Professionals Overseas today

Young Professionals Overseas is a dynamic branch on the activity tree of Zuyd University of Applied Sciences. Yearly the number of participants expands. In short, it facilitates international internships and graduation projects overseas in South Africa, India and Zambia. .[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Young Professionals Overseas and Zuyd University**

Zuyd University of Applied Sciences treasures the idea that students become responsible and self -confident  *citizens* in an ever-increasing global world. Knowing that today’s students are the professionals of tomorrow a substantial stay overseas is encouraged. In India, South Africa or Zambia such a stay is challenging. It implies leaving the security of shared values and attitudes at home to often be confronted by new ones. They not only learn about the new land and culture, but also learn a lot about themselves.

As other elements, such as health risks and adjustments to different types of habitats have to be taken into account, YPO strives for reliability and quality. (Cobben-Crefcoeur, 2012)

# Expectations

YPO is not an internship mediation office. The aforementioned characteristics en the specific cross cultural competence development contribute to this.

The fact the staff members of different Zuyd faculties with specific expertise within a region form a team makes this programme unique.

To join YPO means joining forces of all the faculties. Because the offer of a total package of products and processes we are able to send students in a the most responsible way as possible overseas. By doing this in a multi professional way we as YPO respond to the Bachelor competences.

**Quality of Earnings**

To do an internship and / or a graduation project overseas is not just something a students choose overnight. YPO places the right student on the right place with eye and ear for customization.

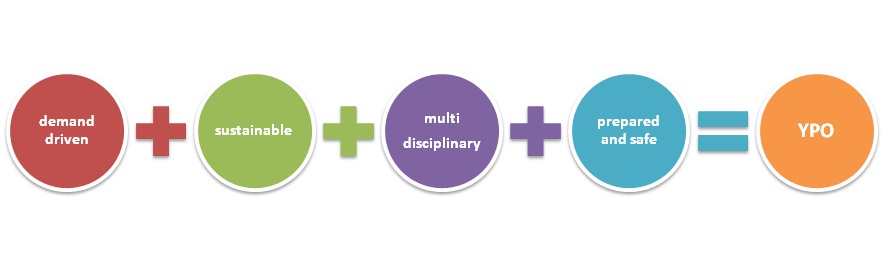
What does the student wants? What is the student capable of? Where will his or hers aspirations and competences get the biggest chance to develop?

YPO is able to match between a student and a internship organization overseas.

**Interdisciplinary**

Collaboration is an important Higher Vocational Education - competence. A multidisciplinary group of students is overseas together to jointly shape projects as young professionals Each with his or her professional background. This way formal and informal various perspectives arise from which projects can be performed: educational, health, financial, welfare, technical, etc.

Students will climb out of their own cocoon of professional orientation and learn the power and the border of each "Profession".

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***Young professionals overseas characteristics***

# The YPO process

*Figure YPO Process*

The YPO process functions within a cycle of 8 steps. These steps assures the students support and supervision. Yearly several times multidisciplinary groups of Zuyd students are placed overseas in South Africa, India or Zambia. In every phasethe Student Company supports them in taking the next step. The start will be on an individual basis. Students will undergo the 7 step admission and after this process students will meet their YPO peers from other departments within Zuyd and become a member of a multidisciplinary group. The preparation at home and the YPO workshops include individual and group activities. Specific compulsory professional preparation from the faculty or department is given by the students own personal faculty internship coordinator.

*\*workshop multicultural approach and workshop prepared and safe*

# Young Professionals Overseas products

At the first Workshop Multicultural approach students will receive more information about the products they will obtain by going abroad with Young Professionals Overseas.

## YPO passport

First students will receive an YPO passport, which the students have to keep with him during the whole period. This is an official document that will prove the participation and involvement in all the YPO activities. The acquired stamps are representing the efforts in preparation, participation and communication. The European Credits for the internship or graduation project are related to this YPO passport.

## Portfolio

should work on a Portfolio

During the internship or graduation project overseas students should complete a portfolio that they will make during the whole YPO cycle. This portfolio contains several compartments:

* 1. Home or index: Introduce yourself
  2. YPO application and intake
  3. Preparation at home
  4. Overseas reflection
  5. Overseas assignments
  6. Evidence
  7. Evaluation

Students have to answer a number of questions and these answers will be elaborated in the portfolio. The questions are:

* What have I learned overseas? Why?
* When have I learned? In what circumstances overseas? Under what conditions?
* How do these learning experiences fit into my further personal and professional development?
* What difference made the period overseas in my intellectual, personal, ethical and intercultural development?
* Is my learning relevant, applicable and practical?
* When, how and why has my learning moments overseas surprised me?
* What have been the proudest highlights of my learning overseas?
* What are the disappointments?
* How is the evidence of my learning integrated with my reflections and proofs in the portfolio?

# Young Professionals Overseas activities

During the period students are overseas YPO will makes sure there is sufficient contact between student, internship organization and YPO itself.

## Organisational visitation

Young professionals overseas is a unique education programme of Zuyd University. There is structural cooperation with partner institutions in the field of regional development. Through this cooperation the preparation is well structured, there is continuity in the projects and it is often a multi-disciplinary collaboration.   
During their stay overseas one or more YPO staff members will visit students once they are settled at the organisation. During those visits students and internship or project supervisor are visited and YPO will make sure that the project or internship is clear towards all the parties.

## Contact moments

For students is always possible to contact YPO via mail or phone. During the internship YPO will contact students (via Skype or phone) and ask for an update about the internship and their daily life overseas.

# Goals overseas

During the internship or graduation project students will work and improve several competences. There are 3 main goals students have to achieve during their period overseas.

Enhance:

* Cultural competence
  + Awareness
  + Attitude
  + Knowledge
  + Skills
* Personal competences
* Professional competences
  + According to educational requirements/faculty/educational institution.

## Cultural experience

Cultural differences are easy to find. Search the Internet and the students will be given lists and lists of information what is different in Zambia, South Africa or India. But they will experience the real deal when once they are overseas.   
a student start this journey thinking with what they can teach others; however it will start with getting to know themselves.

## Personal competences

One of the richest competences of this category includes seeing things in a broad perspective, a sensible view and much life experience.   
Openness to experience, flexibility, active search for new things and information, an open approach without bias, and not easily bored all competences that give a person a healthy interest in the world around his or herself.

## Professional competences

In a professional way students will experience many advantages. During the period overseas they will learn to be more flexible and will able to accept things that happen in different standard then Dutch standards. Students must work on their competences indicated by their own faculty.

# Communication

During the YPO process several elements are implemented to secure a positive outcome of the internship. The elements important for you, as a partner Overseas, are the Professional development of the student. Once a student is overseas YPO will makes sure there is enough contact to discuss the status of the student. However, professional dynamics cannot be discussed on a professional level with YPO, however with the faculty.

## Calamities

In case of calamities YPO will take special care:

Any of the following could have occurred with a student or staff member, for example. They could have:

* Had a serious accident; a personally or group accident ;
* Serious illness (e.g. appendicitis) ;
* Been arrested;
* Been a victim of crime.

In case of a calamity YPO will immediately get in contact with the internship organisation coordinator or faculty staff. It is important to organize transparent communication strategy between all stakeholders such as faculty, student, YPO staff and parents. In severe case of calamities the secretary of the board, the marketing & communication office and the international office will be involved as well.

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1. http://infonet.hszuyd.nl/view\_html.jsp?content=333904 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)