

MAST International Application

It is very important to answer ALL questions in this application and submit ALL requested additional documents. Missing information can delay the application and visa process and is reason for rejection of your application.

How to Complete the Application

1. Read the MAST International Training & Internship Program booklet thoroughly.
2. Complete the attached MAST International Application form.
 - a. We recommend that you complete this application electronically in a PDF viewer such as Adobe Acrobat Reader, which you can download for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. Type or write clearly in black ink.
 - b. Answer all questions completely and truthfully. Use additional pages if necessary. (Incorrect information is reason for rejection of your application and/or termination from the program.)
3. Attach all additional required documents:
 - a. Passport information page
 - b. Education verification (see Final Application Checklist on page 10 for details)
 - c. MAST Country Partner Interview and Assessment form
4. Attach any recommended additional documents:

Note that all documents must be in English

 - a. References
 - b. Autobiography
 - c. Resume/Curriculum Vitae
 - d. YouTube video
 - e. Photos
 - f. Any additional information you feel is relevant to your experience in agriculture or horticulture
5. Check that you have all the application documents (use the Final Application Checklist on page 10). Return the application packet to the MAST International Partner in your country, preferably at least 3 months prior to your chosen start date. Keep a copy of all application materials.

Information provided in the Program Information packet is subject to change without notice.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

MAST International Application

MAST International Partner: Travel to Farm

Personal Information

Type or write clearly. Make sure your name is written exactly as it appears in your passport. Include a copy of your passport information page with your application. If any of this information changes, please inform us immediately.

_____ Family Name(s)/Surname(s)/Last Name(s)		_____ First Name(s)/Given Name(s)	
_____ Date of Birth (month/day/year)	_____ Current Age	_____ Gender	
_____ City of Birth		_____ Country of Birth	
_____ Country of Citizenship		_____ Country of Legal Permanent Residence	

Contact Information

_____ Mobile Phone Number Does this number work on WhatsApp? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	_____ Email Address	_____ Skype Address
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Home/Permanent Address

Street Address (including apartment number, if applicable)

City or Village

State, Region, District, Province, or Territory

Postal Code _____
Country

Mailing/Current Address

Street Address (including apartment number, if applicable)

City or Village

State, Region, District, Province, or Territory

Postal Code _____
Country

Address valid until (month/year): _____

Emergency Contact Information

_____ Emergency Contact	_____ Relationship to You
_____ Emergency Contact Telephone Number	_____ Emergency Contact Email Address

Personal Information (continued)

International Experience

Have you ever lived or worked in another country? Yes No
If yes, list when, where, and for how long:

Have you been to the United States before? Yes No
If yes, list when, why, and for how long:

Have you been on a J-1 visa before? Yes No
If yes, were you a: Trainee Intern Other
Please submit your DS-2019 with your application.

Previous visa end date: _____ Name of Program: _____

Do you have any family members living in the U.S.? Yes No
If yes, list relatives.

Present Position in Home Country

Check the box next to your current job title or student status. (Mark only 1.) If your position is not listed, write it in "Other."

- Employee of an Agricultural Enterprise (including farms) Employee of a Private Enterprise
 Manager of an Agricultural Enterprise (including farms) Manager of a Private Enterprise
 Undergraduate-Level Student Graduate-Level Student
 Other: _____

Total years of work experience in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Related Fields (from page 5): _____

Financial Information

Personal Funds

List the amount of personal funds (including scholarships) you have to support yourself during the MAST program (in USD): \$ _____

U.S. Government Funds

Are you receiving any money from a U.S. government agency? Yes No

If yes, what agency? _____ How much (USD)? \$ _____

Home Government Funds

Are you receiving any money from your home country government? Yes No

If yes, what agency? _____ How much (USD)? \$ _____

Language Information

Language Skills

Describe your English language training (where you studied, how often, and for how long):

Tell us your level of English ability. (Please be honest!)

Speaking English:	<input type="radio"/> Poor	<input type="radio"/> Moderate	<input type="radio"/> Good	<input type="radio"/> Excellent
Understanding English:	<input type="radio"/> Poor	<input type="radio"/> Moderate	<input type="radio"/> Good	<input type="radio"/> Excellent
Reading English:	<input type="radio"/> Poor	<input type="radio"/> Moderate	<input type="radio"/> Good	<input type="radio"/> Excellent

What other languages do you speak? _____

Additional Information

Were you born and raised on a farm? Yes No

Does your family own or operate a farm or horticulture business? Yes No

If YES to either question, describe the operation (including size and type of operation, and your responsibilities).

Are you able to lift:	15 kg (≈33 pounds)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
	25 kg (≈55 pounds)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
	35 kg (≈77 pounds)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

Do you have a driver's license for an automobile?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	<i>*if you have a driver's license, please submit a copy of it with your application</i>
Do you have a driver's license for a truck?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	

Do you smoke? Yes No

Have you lived on your own before? Yes No

Are you capable of preparing your own meals? Yes No

YouTube Video

We strongly recommend that you provide a short 1-3 minute YouTube video introducing yourself and your experiences. This can be a very powerful tool in the review of your application, as host trainers do not have the opportunity to interview you in person and this can help them to learn more about you.

For additional information and instructions, please refer to the "YouTube Video Instruction and Guidelines" enclosed with this application.

YouTube Video Link: _____

Educational History

Current/Most Recent Educational Information

Name of Institution
(e.g. University of Minnesota)

Field of Study
(e.g. Agronomy, Animal Science, etc.)

Type of Degree
(e.g. Bachelor's Degree, Certificate, etc.)

Dates Attended: _____ to _____

Have you graduated? Yes If yes, what was your graduation date (month/day/year)? _____

No If no, when will you graduate (month/day/year)? _____

Previous Post-Secondary Educational Experience

Please describe all previous educational experience after age 18.

Name of Institution
(e.g. University of Minnesota)

Field of Study
(e.g. Agronomy, Animal Science, etc.)

Type of Degree
(e.g. Bachelor's Degree, Certificate, etc.)

Graduation Date: _____

Name of Institution
(e.g. University of Minnesota)

Field of Study
(e.g. Agronomy, Animal Science, etc.)

Type of Degree
(e.g. Bachelor's Degree, Certificate, etc.)

Graduation Date: _____

Name of Institution
(e.g. University of Minnesota)

Field of Study
(e.g. Agronomy, Animal Science, etc.)

Type of Degree
(e.g. Bachelor's Degree, Certificate, etc.)

Graduation Date: _____

List additional education or training in agriculture, horticulture, or related fields. Also list any safety training you have completed.

Experience in Agriculture

List all work experience in agriculture, horticulture, or related fields. Include experience on a family farm. Continue on a separate piece of paper if necessary.

Name of Business: _____ Type of Operation _____

Average Hours/Week: _____ Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Job Responsibilities/Tasks:

Name of Business: _____ Type of Operation _____

Average Hours/Week: _____ Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Job Responsibilities/Tasks:

Name of Business: _____ Type of Operation _____

Average Hours/Week: _____ Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Job Responsibilities/Tasks:

Name of Business: _____ Type of Operation _____

Average Hours/Week: _____ Start Date: _____ End Date: _____

Job Responsibilities/Tasks:

Total Years of Work Experience (after age 16) in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Related Fields: _____

Placement Request Information

Indicate which type of placement you are seeking:

Placement Type 1: (select one)

- Crops
 - Fruit/Vegetable Production
 - Landscape
 - Winery
 - Greenhouse/Garden Center
 - Other: _____
- Beef
 - Dairy
 - Equine Husbandry
 - Swine

Placement Type 2: (select one)

- Crops
 - Fruit/Vegetable Production
 - Landscape
 - Winery
 - Greenhouse/Garden Center
 - Other: _____
- Beef
 - Dairy
 - Equine Husbandry
 - Swine

Further describe what type of placement would be best for you.

Program Start Date Preference

Put 1, 2, or 3 beside the month you want to begin your practical training/internship program. (1 should be your first choice.) Choices cannot be guaranteed but are useful to assist MAST International in arranging your placements.

_____ January _____ March _____ May _____ July _____ September _____ November
_____ February _____ April _____ June _____ August _____ October _____ December

Semester Study Program Preferences

Select only one. Choices cannot be guaranteed, as timing of the Practical Training/Internship must be taken into consideration. *Note: if you select "I do not want to study," you cannot add the study program at a later date.*

- I want to study I am not sure if I want to study I do not want to study

Preference for Length of Training Program

Put 1, 2, or 3 beside the length of training/internship you prefer. (1 should be your first choice.) Choices cannot be guaranteed but are useful to assist MAST International in arranging your placements. Mark only the length you are requesting for the PRACTICAL TRAINING - additional months will be added to your visa if you choose the Semester Study Program.

_____ 3-4 months _____ 5-7 months _____ 8-10 months _____ 11-12 months

If you have any restrictions to start or end dates for the program, write them here.

Placement Preferences

Choices cannot be guaranteed but are used to assist MAST International in arranging placements.

- Would you consider a placement:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Working in a rural/remote location? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Working one-on-one with a host trainer? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Working as part of a larger team of employees? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Working with trainees from your same home country? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Working with trainees from other countries? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Working with trainees/host trainer of the same gender? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Working with trainees/host trainer of the another gender? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Being the only trainee at the training site? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Living at the training site? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Living away from the training site? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Eating meals with the host family? |
| <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Cooking your own meals? |

Personal Goals

The MAST International program has three major features: Practical Experience, Semester Study Program, and Cultural Opportunities. Please answer the following questions by describing what is most important for you to gain from the MAST International program.

What are the three most important things you hope to gain from the MAST International program?

1.

2.

3.

Indicate which aspect of the program is most important to you:

- Practical Training/Internship Experience
- Academic Experience
- Cultural Experience

Why did you choose your answer above?

Health and Medical History

This health and medical history helps MAST determine which training sites may be a good fit for you. (For example, if you have a hay allergy, you probably don't want to work at a crops farm producing hay.) Your health and medical history will not disqualify you from the MAST program and MAST cannot discriminate based on these factors. Please answer honestly.

Do you have any of the following conditions that would limit your ability to complete physical tasks during your training?

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Asthma or other respiratory problem | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Sight or hearing impairment | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |
| Back problems | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Joint problems | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |
| Learning disabilities | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Mental health condition | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |

Do you have:

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Any dietary restrictions? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Any communicable diseases? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |
| Any allergies? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | Other serious health condition? | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No |

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please provide further details and describe any reasonable accommodations you may need to complete your training.

Reminder: Any pre-existing conditions listed above will not be covered by your U.S. health insurance.

Agreement and Signature

I, _____

(print your name here)

- Certify that this application is truthful and understand that incorrect information in this application can result in rejection of my application and/or termination from the program.
- Authorize MAST International to store this data for up to 3 years and use the data in the placement and visa process.
- Authorize release of the application and attached information to prospective hosts; authorize the release of application data to other MAST constituents as needed.
- Will immediately inform MAST International of any changes in my health and understand that any pre-existing conditions will not be covered by my U.S. health insurance.
- Understand that there may be future changes to the MAST program or U.S. immigration laws that could make parts of my application null or void or require me to provide additional information.
- Accept and agree to all conditions for participation in the MAST International program.
- Recognize that even if MAST accepts me into the MAST program by arranging a placement, this is not a guarantee that I will receive a J-1 visa approval from the U.S. embassy or consulate in my country. MAST or its representatives have no influence over the decisions made by U.S. consular officials.
- Understand that typing my name in the below signature box confirms that I acknowledge and agree to the above terms.

Signature

Date (month/day/year)

Application Information

Did someone assist you with completing this application? Yes No

If YES, who helped you? _____

How did you hear about MAST International?

MAST Website

Social media

Current trainee

Name: _____

Former trainee

Name: _____

Host trainer

Name: _____

Other : _____

Data and Privacy

MAST International is asking you to provide the information in this application for the MAST placement process and visa documents if you are placed. This application will be shared with MAST staff and host trainers in the placement and visa process. You are not required to provide this information; however, MAST may not be able to consider your application if you do not provide all information requested. Access to this information will typically be limited to MAST staff and host trainers. Some data, but not the entire application, may be shared with other MAST constituents, such as local host families and University of Minnesota professors. MAST may also be required to share this information for federal reporting purposes or with appropriate persons in connection with an emergency. You may request to view your program file at any time. If you are not given a placement with the MAST program, your application will be deleted after 1 year. If you participate in the MAST program, your application will be deleted after 3 years (per Department of State regulations). You may request that your data be deleted at any time but will no longer be considered for placement from that point forward.

MAST International Final Application Checklist

Complete the Application

Send the following REQUIRED documents to MAST International:

- Application Form
- Copy of your passport information page
- MAST Country Partner Interview & Assessment form
- Education verification – select option below

Required Education Verification Documentation

Check which situation applies to you and which document you are submitting (if required)

I am a(n) . . .	You must submit:
<input type="checkbox"/> Current Student	MAST Education Verification for Current Students form (enclosed) or current transcript
<input type="checkbox"/> Student who has graduated from a post-secondary academic institution	Degree, Certificate, Diploma, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant who has not attended a post-secondary educational institution	You are not required to submit educational documents but you must have at least 5 years of work experience listed on pages 2 and 5

Recommended Documents

Recommend documents that you may also include with your application:

Note that all documents must be in English

- Autobiography
- Two References
- Photos
- Resume/CV
- YouTube video (include link on page 3)
- Additional information you feel is relevant to your experience in agriculture and horticulture

What Happens Next?

1. The MAST International Country Partner will assess your qualifications, conduct an interview, and send your application to MAST International.
2. MAST International staff members will evaluate your application. You might be contacted for additional information or an interview. This review process can take multiple months; please be patient awaiting a response from MAST.
3. If it appears that you are a good fit for the program, MAST will attempt to match you with a host trainer. Host trainers review applications to select which trainee/intern they wish to host.
4. If you are selected, you will receive information regarding the placement via email from MAST International.
5. If you accept the placement, a package with your Training/Internship Placement Plan and documents to apply for your U.S. visa will be sent to your MAST International Country Partner. (Note: after placement documents are sent, it will take 4-6 weeks to receive your J-1 entry visa and be allowed to enter the U.S.)
6. You must visit the U.S. Consulate or Embassy in your country to obtain an entry visa to the United States.
7. After you receive your entry visa, work with your Country Partner to schedule a flight to arrive for the program dates indicated in your placement information. You should send your travel details to MAST International as soon as possible.

MAST International Country Partner Interview & Assessment

All applicants to the MAST International program working with an international partner must have completed an interview as part of the application process. If you are also conducting an interview for English proficiency verification, please use the "MAST International English Proficiency Verification Interview Form."

To be completed by the International Partner:

Applicant Information

Name of Applicant

Country

Interview

Interviewer: Please discuss the MAST program with the applicant. You may use these suggested questions/prompts.

- Agricultural skills/experience
- Academic coursework (if applicable)
- Goals for MAST program
- Long-term academic/career goals
- Interests/Hobbies
- Possible difficulties & opportunities of living in the U.S.

Assessment of Applicant

What type of placement (area of agriculture/horticulture, products/activities, size, etc.) would you recommend for this applicant?

What skills or experiences will this applicant bring to their placement?

Please comment on the applicant's personality and how this may impact their placement.

Please describe any interests, needs, or attitudes that might have an impact on this applicant's placement or adjustment to an international exchange program.

What do you believe is the applicant's main reason for applying to the MAST International program?

English Assessment

Comprehension

- Applicant understood questions asked in English
- Applicant required an explanation of the questions in English
- Applicant required translation of questions into native language
- Applicant did not understand questions in English

Speaking

- Applicant responded in English without hesitating
- Applicant responded in English but needed to think about vocabulary
- Applicant responded in mixed English and native language
- Applicant did not answer in English

Based on your interview and English assessment, do you believe that this applicant is prepared to do the following during their training placement?

- Yes No Perform his/her daily training activities
- Yes No Navigate daily life in the United States;
- Yes No Read and comprehend program materials;
- Yes No Understand fully his/her rights, responsibilities, and protections;
- Yes No Know how to get help if necessary.

English Assessment Notes/Comments:

Recommendation

Based on your interview, do you believe that this applicant:

- Yes No Has reasonable expectations and preparation for their training program?
- Yes No Has the maturity and ability to adapt and be successful at their training site?
- Yes No Would do well at a training site as the only trainee?
- Yes No Would do well at a training site with trainees from different countries?
- Yes No Would do well at a training site with trainees from the same home country?
- Yes No Would do well working one-on-one with a host trainer?
- Yes No Would do well working as part of a larger team?
- Yes No Could work in a rural/remote location?
- Yes No Could live on their own/prepare their own meals/etc.?
- Yes No Could live on the training site and eat meals with the host family?

Final Notes/Comments/Recommendation:

I used the following method to interview the applicant:

- In person Videoconferencing (Skype, Google Hangouts, etc.) Telephone

Name of Evaluator

Title

Email Address

Signature

Date (month/day/year)

MAST International Education Verification for Current Students

Educational status verification is required of all students applying to the MAST International program who are current students at a post-secondary academic institution or who have completed a degree or certificate at a post-secondary academic institution. If you are a current student, please complete the form below. If you have completed a degree or certificate, please attach that to your application and do not complete this form.

To be completed by an Academic Advisor or School Official

Name of School Official

Title

Email

Phone Number

Name of Institution: _____

Is this institution is an accredited post-secondary academic institution outside the US? Yes No

Address of Institution: _____

Institution Website: _____

Please answer the following information about the MAST International Applicant

Student Name: _____

Yes No The above-named applicant is currently enrolled and in good academic standing at this institution.

Yes No It is my understanding that this applicant plans to return to this institution to complete his or her studies upon completion of his or her internship with MAST International.

Yes No Applicant must return to this institution by a certain date to continue his or her studies.

If YES, please specify date: _____

Student's current field of study _____

Student's anticipated date of study completion or graduation _____

(Please specify month, day, year)

Signature of School Official

Date (month/day/year)

MAST International YouTube Video Instructions & Guidelines

We recommend that you provide a short 1-3 minute YouTube video introducing yourself and your experiences. This can be a very powerful tool in the review of your application, as host trainers do not have the opportunity to interview you in person and this can help them to learn more about you.

What to discuss in your video:

- Your name
- Your age
- Which country you come from
- Your education
- Your work experience related to the placement type you are applying for
- Any other countries where you have worked
- Your hobbies and interests
- Why you would like to train in the United States


Guidelines:

- Your video should be 1-3 minutes in length
- You must speak in English
- Your video title & description must be in English

Things to remember:

- Talk slowly and clearly
- Practice before you record your video
- Pretend you are speaking with someone you like
- Look at the camera and smile!

How to upload your video to YouTube:

1. Create a user account (if you do not have one) following the instructions at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).
 - a. Click "Sign In" at the upper right hand corner of the screen
 - b. Select "More Options" on the sign in page and click "Create Account"
 - c. Follow the prompts on screen and fill out the registration form
2. Sign in at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).
3. Click on the  upload arrow at the top of the screen. Follow the prompts to upload your video. For further instructions, visit www.support.google.com/youtube/answer/57407?hl=en&ref_topic=2888648.
4. Apply the following settings when you upload your video:
 - a. Title: MAST International *Your Name* Interview
 - b. Description: *Your Name* interview for MAST International
 - c. Privacy: Public or Unlisted
5. Click "Publish" (if your video is public) or "Done" (if your video is unlisted) to finish the upload.
6. Copy and paste your video URL to page 3 of your MAST application.

Optional MAST International Trainee/Intern Reference Form

Applicant Instructions: It is recommended that you submit two references with your application. Give this form to someone who can provide information about your personal, technical, and English skills. Do not complete the form yourself. A good reference is often an employer, teacher, mentor, etc. – someone who has observed your working. Return this completed form with your application. If you already have a letter or other documentation from a reference, you may submit that instead of this form.

Reference Instructions: MAST International enables individuals in the fields of agriculture and horticulture to gain academic and practical training, proficiency in English, and an intercultural living and learning experience in the United States. Consider that participants in the program are not only trainees or interns, but will be representing their home countries. Please answer the following questions stating the ability to succeed and competence of the applicant to participate in this type of program. Your thoughtful evaluation of the applicant's ability will be appreciated. Thank you for providing this reference.

Applicant Information

Name of Applicant

Country

Reference Information

Name of Reference

Title

Telephone

Address

Email

What is your relationship to the applicant? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

Assessment of Applicant Abilities:

Rate the applicant on the following items. Select N/A if you had not observed the applicant's ability in that area.

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor	N/A
Personal Skills						
Flexibility/adaptability						
Reaction to stress						
Enthusiasm						
Cooperation with others						
Reliability						
Initiative						
Sense of humor						
Tolerance for differences						
Maturity						
Technical Skills						
Safe work habits						
Ability to carry out instructions						
Machinery operation						
Knowledge of crop production						
Ability to work with crops (e.g. corn, wheat, alfalfa, apples, vegetables)						
Knowledge of animal production						
Ability to work with animals (e.g. dairy, horse, swine)						
Knowledge of ornamental plant production						
Ability to work with ornamental plants (e.g. annual flowers, shrubs)						
Additional technical skills: _____						
English Skills						
Speaking						
Comprehension						

Assessment of Applicant

What type of placement (type of agriculture/horticulture, products/activities, size, etc.) would you recommend for this applicant? What skills or experience will the applicant bring to this placement?

Please comment on the applicant's personality.

Describe any interests, needs, or attitudes that might have an impact on the applicant's placement in or adjustment on an international exchange program.

What do you feel is the applicant's main reason for applying to the MAST International program?

If necessary, add any additional information you feel would assist MAST International in matching this applicant with a prospective host. Please use a separate sheet of paper.

Reference Signature

Signature

Date (month/day/year)