

One less hassle for startups and small businesses -- Arranging for an intern for 2011.

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By Sandra Holtzman, NY Startup Business Examiner

Start up and small businesses know how difficult finding the right people to work with. That's especially true with finding an intern. So many colleges have internship programs but there's ultimately no way of knowing how prepared a prospective intern is to enter the work force. Do they have the skills you are looking for? The right attitude? Can they communicate? Really basic skills are scattered along a very wide continuum that makes it difficult to find the right intern. For instance can that applicant with a high index keep their mind focused on your company and the project at hand, instead of IMing or emailing or texting for most of the day.

A new solution has appeared in NYC offers a different spin on the answer to the intern issue. The solution is called CCIP – Cross-Culture Internship Program. It's President, Elizabeth Kay is also the Program Founder.

Basically, the program pairs university students from Asia with companies seeking interns in the US. The program takes place from May to August in two seven-week sessions. The mission is "to promote cultural exchange and understanding between the US and other parts of the world by opening the doors for a pool of talented overseas students to US companies as well as providing students a glimpse of American approaches to business challenges, work culture and practices."

CCIP is self-described as a philanthropic program which is non-profit and self-funded. It relies on the administrative fees charged to students and in-kind donations sponsored by FUSIA (a marketing firm that is owned by Elizabeth Kay).

The students speak fluent English and are hardworking and ambitious. Most of them live in the Flushing Y for their internship so they live together in an Asian neighborhood. Their living fees are furnished, at least in part, by the alumni associations of the participating universities (including those located in Hong Kong and Macao).

The program boasts fees that are among the lowest in the market, including both non-profit and for-profit programs. There's a lot of competition out there for student interns. CCIP is definitely worth considering.

Elizabeth Kay is highly motivated and works very hard to make matches with companies in the NYC area.

Host company open enrollment runs from October 1 to March 15. For more information visit <http://www.exploreinternship.com>.

