

Hoch Orchard and Gardens
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Policy on International Interns

We have had many international interns on our farm and we plan to invite international interns to come to our farm long into the future. All our interns come through one of two programs: the University of Minnesota's MAST program in St Paul MN and the MESA program in Berkley California.

These two programs are well known and have good reputations. Their staff is knowledgeable and willing to work closely with the interns and always available to deal with unexpected problems.

Both programs help the prospective interns with the needed international paperwork. Both programs are educational programs requiring a J-1 student Visa. If you want to apply for an internship on Hoch Orchard you will have to apply through either the MAST or the MESA programs. We do NOT sponsor foreign interns outside of one of these programs.

The MESA program is fairly small and sponsors about 50 interns each year. This program helps the interns find funding for travel and other expenses. This program pays the intern a monthly stipend of about \$350 per month when they are working on the farm. First year students through MESA have an eight month program that starts in April and finishes in November. Go to www.mesaprogram.org for more information.

The MAST program is large with over 400 intern placements each year. This program has more upfront costs for the intern, but the intern has the potential to make more money over an entire season. The intern has to pay a monthly fee to the MAST program while working on the farm. We pay the MAST intern a stipend of \$1000 per month. MAST offers multiple starting dates and intern periods. They also offer one semester of study at the University of Minnesota as an optional part of the program. For more information go to <http://mast.cfans.umn.edu/>.

We are happy to look at your Resume or Transcript, but we will not send you an Internship application or work with you directly to apply for a Visa. If you apply through MAST or MESA feel free to email us an email when you finish their application process. This way we can request that the program send us your application after all the paper work is in place.