

TRAINING PROGRAM

The ASF welcomed a total of 430 young Scandinavians to the U.S. for training programs at firms in 30 states during the fiscal years of 2001-02 and 2002-03. These Exchange Visitors enjoyed in-depth professional experiences in fields as varied as shipping, agriculture, law, social work, and engineering. They also participated in daily American life, both in the companies serving as host trainers and in the communities where they lived. One-third were young professionals who, having completed entry-level positions at home, embarked on more advanced training in the U.S.; the majority were university-level students who undertook international internships as part of their academic programs. These numbers, however, reflect a decline in the number of trainees from Scandinavia that began in 2001, reflecting economic factors, concerns about training in the U.S. after September 11th, and the relative ease of training in EU countries.

In its reciprocal exchange during the period of this report, the ASF sent 38 Americans to Scandinavia for similar training in fields such as arts administration, engineering, business, and teaching English as a foreign language. The efforts by of the ASF's Nordic cooperating offices, and its Board of Trustees to develop these opportunities for young Americans to is very much appreciated.

As of January 2003, the ASF began participating in SEVIS, the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, as mandated by the USA Patriot Act of 2001 enacted by Congress to strengthen national security. SEVIS is a web-based data collection and monitoring system through which the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services is able to track foreign visitors in the U.S. on specific visas.

The ASF believes that the international exchange of people is one of the most effective ways to build understanding and appreciation among the world's citizens, and is grateful for the designation provided by the U.S. Department of State that enables us to sponsor Exchange Visitors. The ASF also wishes to thank the many American and Scandinavian firms that have supported this program, and to express appreciation to the dedicated staffs at its cooperating offices in the Nordic countries.



Shannon Britt from Pepperdine University, training in international business at Statoil ASA, Stavanger, Norway

"This is our first experience with the ASF. The program and Mr. Manninen surpassed all expectations. . .and helped both Hendrix Manufacturing and the student."

Trainer Richard Thompson, Hendrix Manufacturing Co., Inc., Mansfield, LA.
Trainee Riku Manninen of Finland

"Interacting always in a warm and professional manner, Mette became an integral part of our teaching team."

Trainer Terry A. Michel at Lakeland's Little Learners, Elkhorn, WI.
Trainee Mette Henriksen of Denmark

"Markus's overall performance was exemplary. [He] was well regarded by all he worked with at SAAB and he will make a fine addition to any company."

Trainer Gena Laurent, Senior VP, Finance and Commercial, SAAB Aircraft Leasing, Inc., Sterling VA.
Trainee Markus Renström of Sweden



Marcus Johansson of Sweden, trainee in standard bred horse training at Brett Bittle Stable, Allentown, NJ



Nneka Amu of Sweden, left, trainee in journalism at The Chicago Reporter, Chicago, IL



Jesper Riis Christensen (left) and Jacob Andersen, both from Denmark, trainees in shipping at Dan Gulf Shipping, Inc. and Caytrans Project Services, Ltd., respectively, in Metairie, LA



Tiina Salin of Finland, trainee in wildlife conservation management at Wild Salmon Center, Portland, OR, where scuba diving is part of her assignment