

TRAINING PROGRAM

The American Scandinavian Foundation's trainee exchange program enabled 436 young Scandinavians to undertake training in 30 states during the two year period covered by this report. The ASF provides visa sponsorship for these trainees through its U.S. Government-designated Exchange Visitor (J visa) Program. There have been more than 15,400 participants since the ASF began this program in 1949.

Scandinavian trainees gain an understanding of American theory, methodology, standards and practices in their occupational fields through directed, on-the-job learning, and they acquire new American skills to be applied in future professional endeavors upon returning to Scandinavia. Training is in a broad range of professions, including business, engineering, information technology, web design, and architecture. Each trainee is welcomed by the host trainer as a member of the staff and receives a direct, personal introduction to the American practice in his or her professional field.

In its reciprocal exchange, the ASF sends Americans to Finland and Sweden for similar training in the fields of forestry, biology and the teaching of English as a foreign language. The ASF is assisted in developing opportunities by its cooperating offices in Finland and Sweden.

The ASF is grateful to the many American and Scandinavian businesses and organizations that have made it possible for the trainees to learn through observation and gain new skills and knowledge. The collaboration of the ASF's Nordic cooperating offices is also an indispensable part of the program and is very much appreciated.



TRAINER COMMENTS:

"This was my second opportunity to work with this program. Both experiences were exceptional and added wonderful energy and skills to my costume shop."

Ms. Jeannette Hawley, Costume Shop Manager, American Repertory Theater, Cambridge, Massachusetts

"The trainee became an extremely valuable member of our team because he was prescreened and qualified. This reduced our training time and improved trainee's productivity and opportunity to learn. This is a vital part of what ESRI needs from a program such as ASF. Continued adherence to this principle will stand ASF and its trainees in good stead."

Mr. Simon Thompson, Commercial Marketing Director, ESRI Inc., Redlands, California

TRAINEE COMMENTS:

"My internship was the best ever. It is not common for a design student to work so close to the best designers and have them teach you what you need."

Trainee Ida-Maria Iraeus, Sweden, Volvo Monitoring and Concept Center, Camarillo, CA

"Lots of engineering skills acquired. Especially my consultancy skills improved considerably since I was honored to work very closely with several senior consultants. This will be very useful to me during my last year at my university where lots of problem solving capabilities are needed."

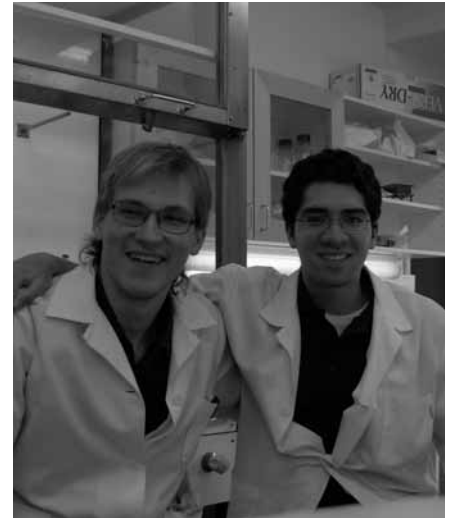
Trainee Peter Schill, Sweden, Production Modeling Corporation (PMC), Dearborn, MI



Matilda Karin Nordin of Sweden, equestrian trainee at the Rocking Z Guest Ranch, Wolf Creek, MT



Kristiina Eeva Pahkala of Finland, trainee in marketing and event planning at Lori's Pins 'n Needles, Paris, IL



American trainee Omar Metwally (right) from the University of Michigan with Finnish colleague at Metla Finnish Research Station in Punkaharju



Michael Grönberg of Sweden, trainee in manufacturing engineering, with colleagues at Camfil Farr Inc., Riverdale, NJ