



Career Pathways in a Global Workforce: Why International Experiences Matter

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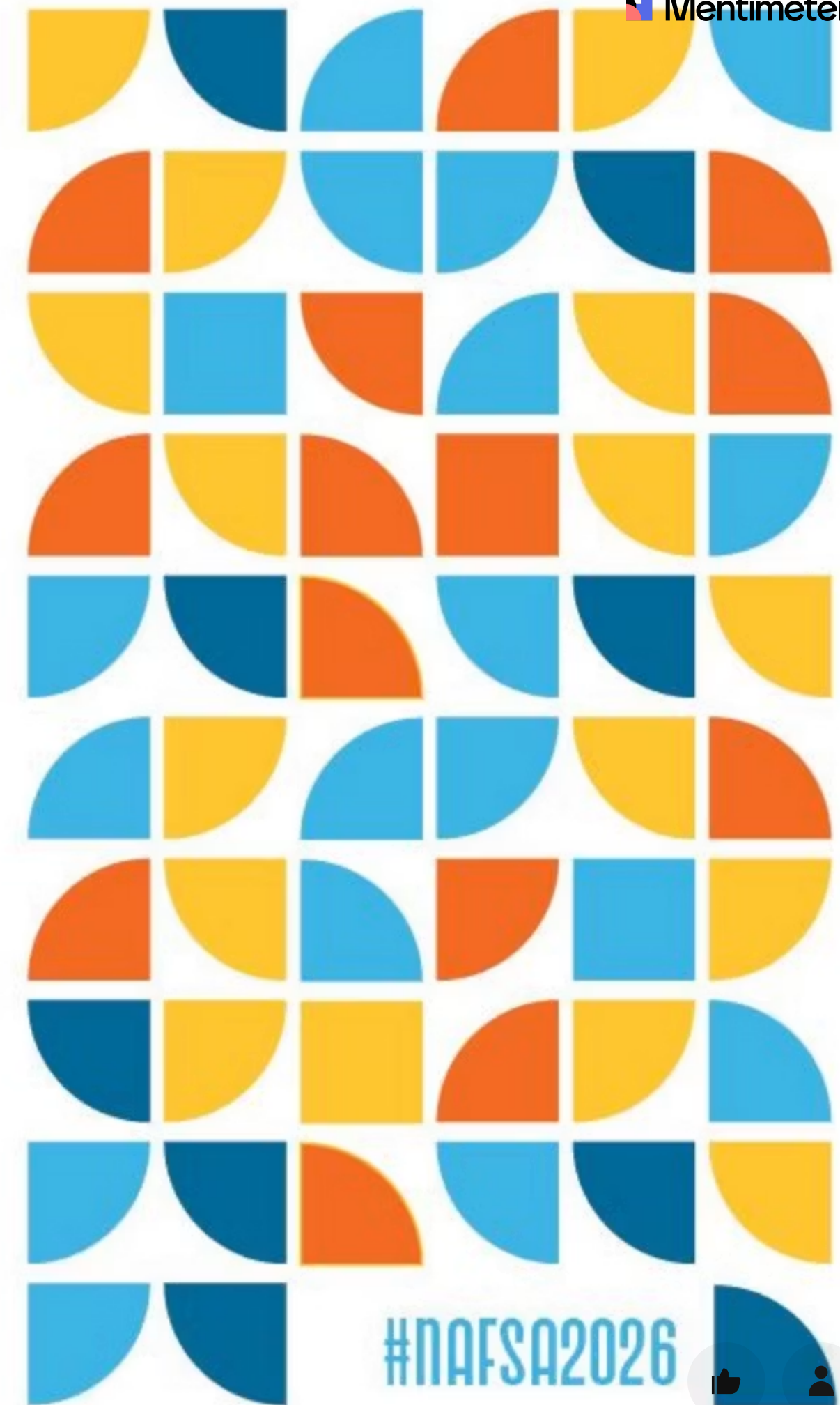
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Learning Objectives:

- Explain connections between global internship activities and specific knowledge and global skill development.
- Identify career pathways for students who participate in global internships.
- Describe global internship program models that embed activities to develop knowledge, skills, and global competencies needed in today's workforce.



What type of institution are you affiliated with?



- ul>
- U.S college or university
- U.S. organization
- International college or university
- International organization
- Other

Are you currently managing international internships?



How would you describe a successful internship?



IIE/AIFS Research on Global Internships



2021



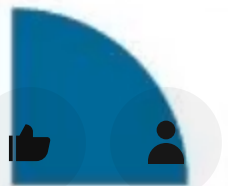
2024



2025



#NAFSA2026



Connections between global internships and skills development

3 Key Takeaways

1. Skills Development

- Global internships significantly develop 21st century workforce skills.
 - Confidence
 - Communication
 - Intercultural skills
 - Flexibility/adaptability

Source: [Standing out in a competitive market](#)

2. Skills Relevant to Career

- **80%** of internship alumni indicate their internship supported skills **relevant to their professional journey.**

Source: [Standing out in a competitive market](#)

3. Internships and Career Goals

Did your global internship affect your career goals?



“I gained a clearer path of what industry I was interested in working in. I was more driven to apply to jobs post-graduation that were relevant to my internship experience, the company I worked for, and its sector in the market.”

Source: [Standing out in a competitive market](#)

Global internship models and links to employers

Key Takeaways

Global Internships and Study Abroad: Employer Perspective (2025)

- Examines experiences and outcomes of U.S. students
- Global internships and in-person experiential activities abroad
- 3 institutional case studies
- Perspectives of employers

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Key Findings

Global internships offer considerable value to both interns and employers, fostering environments that are grounded in global competencies, mentorship, and skill development.

- Employers benefit from the valuable skills and perspectives interns bring
- Interns gain real-world experience abroad, critical to career readiness
- Mentorship is essential to enhance the internship experience and employer satisfaction

Managing global internship programs requires coordination across partners and beneficiaries to ensure aligned expectations and successful internships.

- Tailoring internships to meet specific program needs yields satisfaction for institutions, interns, and employers
- Employers value transparency, a strong match between candidates and organizational culture, needs, and projects, and ongoing communication with AIFS Abroad

PANEL DISCUSSION

1. How do you set up your global internship program? Who has the responsibility for the global internship program?
2. How do you set expectations and/or guidelines around work-based learning? (With whom?)
3. What learning outcomes are you considering, and from what sources?
4. Advice for institutions looking to scale/improve?

New Releases at #NAFSA2026!

Global Education Research Report: Passport to Leadership

COMING SOON!

GLOBAL EDUCATION RESEARCH REPORTS



Passport to Leadership

The Influence of Education Abroad on Career Pathways and Leadership Development Across Industries

Julie Baer and Bethany Wentz, PhD

NAFSA • MAY 27 • 9:00 AM

New Data: Open Doors 2026 Intensive English Programs

COMING SOON!

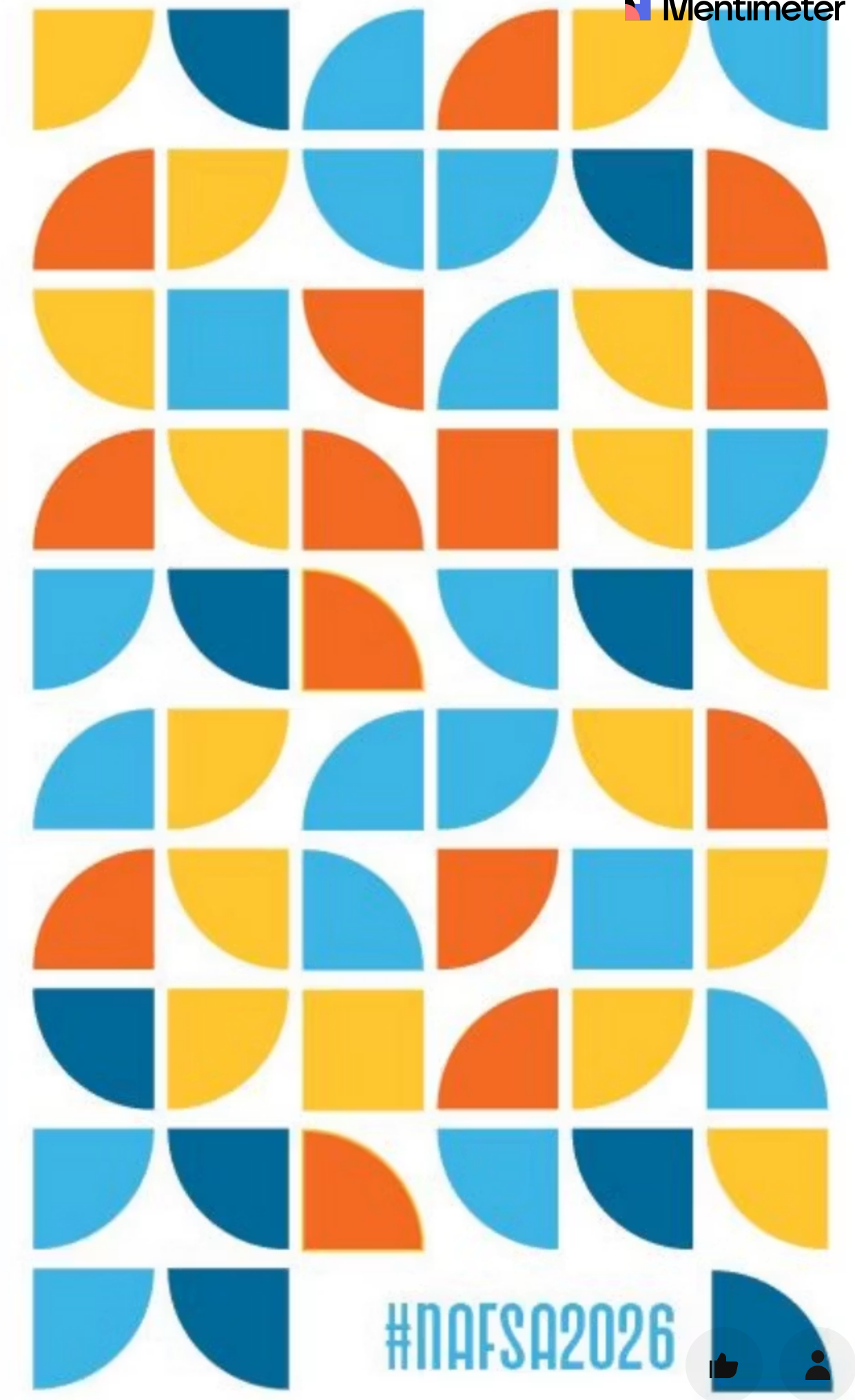
opendoors®

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE

INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAMS ANNUAL DATA RELEASE



NAFSA • MAY 28 • 12:30 PM



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