



Privacy Policy

INTERNational Connections Privacy Act Statement

AUTHORITIES: The information is requested under the authority of 22 U.S.C. §2551, 22 U.S.C. §2651a, §22 U.S.C. 3901 et seq, 22 U.S.C. §4141a

PURPOSE: The information solicited on this form will be used to create a career networking site for current and former interns as well as Department employees. The site collects pertinent information about them, their experiences and their career goals.

ROUTINE USES: The information provided will not be shared outside of the Department of State. More information on the Routine Uses for the system can be found in the System of Records Notice State-31, Human Resource Records.

DISCLOSURE: Providing this information is voluntary. Failure to provide the information requested on this website may result in being denied access to the website.

INTERNational Connections Privacy Policy

The U.S. Department of State, the developer of INTERNational Connections, is strongly committed to protecting the privacy of our interns and alumni and to developing technology that gives you a powerful and safe online experience. We are committed to earning your trust through open and honest communication. We promise not to sell or rent your email address or other personal information for unsolicited marketing. The following notice explains our online information practices. Answers to specific questions on privacy follows the general notice.

What information does INTERNational Connections collect and store automatically?

Name of the domain from which users access the Internet (for example, .edu.com, if the user connects via an America Online account, or princeton.edu if a user connects from Princeton University's domain); Date and time a user accesses the site; and Internet address of the Web site from which the user linked directly to our site.

We use the information we collect to count the number and type of visitors to the different pages on our site, and to help us make our site more useful to visitors like you.

If you send us an email:

We use the information you send in an email to improve our service to you or to respond to your request. Sometimes we forward you email to other government employees who may be better able to help you. We do not share the emails we receive with any other outside organizations.

Links to other sites:

Our Web site may contain links to other federal agencies, embassies, multilateral organizations, and private organizations. When you link to another site, you are no longer on our site and are subject to the privacy policy of the new site.

What personal information does INTERNational Connections collect from me?

INTERNational Connections requires certain information for participation. This information may include: your email address, a username and password, where you're from, first and last names, university name, major/minor, where you traveled to during your internship or employment with State, program name, program start date, program end date, and your field of study. All other information is provided on a voluntary basis, though we encourage you to fill out the form in its entirety in order to make your experience on INTERNational Connections as rich as possible. Participants in the site also have the option of restricting access to their information by clicking Friends Only on the Profile Privacy Setting on the Preferences tab.

We also collect certain non-personally identifiable information when you visit INTERNational Connections, such as type of browser (Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer), operating system (Windows XP, Vista, Mac OS X), the name of your Internet service provider (America Online, Bells), and the IP address used to access the site.

Why does INTERNational Connections collect data?

INTERNational Connections collects data in order to keep track of the participants of its student programs. The U.S. Department of State must justify to the U.S. Congress the importance of its student programs and tracking its participants' activities is one way to do just that. The Bureau of Human Resources wants to maintain a connection with student program participants after they have completed a specific program. The primary goal is to assist in encouraging, motivating and inspiring these potential candidates to pursue a career with the U.S. Department of State. Additionally, the collected data is used to fine-tune the design and functionality of the site. The U.S. Department of State may also use data to perform statistical analyses of the collective characteristics, interests, and behaviors of our registered users.

How is my collected information used?

The collected information may be used on a statistical basis to present information on activities of the U.S. Department of State's student program participants to the U.S. Congress. The information is also used to connect current student program participants with one another as well as alumni and Department employees.

Will you sell my personal information to anyone?

No. We do not release information to any outside companies, organizations, or governments, nor to any third parties not directly involved with exchange programs administered by the Bureau of Human Resources.

May I choose what information I disclose?

We clearly mark each request for data as "required" or "optional." "Required" data are necessary to process your request for participation in INTERNational Connections. "Optional" data let us know more about you (interests and current location for example) so we can better connect you with current interns and employees, but whether you provide that information is totally at your discretion. Our policy is to authenticate entries to the site to the best extent possible. This information will be screened by the Bureau of Human Resources.

Does INTERNational Connections use cookies?

The site uses a session cookie to allow secure logins.

Can I view my personal information?

We encourage INTERNational Connections participants to update and edit their personal information to keep it current. You can easily perform this task by logging into the site and clicking Update Your Profile. You may also request that your INTERNational Connections account be deactivated by [contacting us](#).

What kind of security does INTERNational Connections use to protect my privacy?

We know how important security is to Internet users. INTERNational Connections stores all user information in a secure database protected by a variety of access controls. This information is accessed only for the purposes specified in this privacy statement.

INTERNational Connections privacy policy changes.

We may change our privacy policy from time to time. Any change will be posted here so that you will always know what information we gather, how we might use it, and whether we will disclose it to anyone. If at any time we decide to use personally identifiable information in a manner different from that stated at the time it was collected, we will notify you first by email. You will have a choice as to whether we use your information in that manner.

Who do I contact if I have questions about this privacy policy or its implementation?

If you have any questions or comments, please [contact us](#).