Fee Based Internship Programs

What are Fee-based Internship Programs?
Fee-based Internship Programs are services offered by private organizations that charge a fee to organize internships for their customers. They operate much like a study abroad program in that they create the internship placement via their own connections and agreements with a variety of companies and organizations as well as often arrange living and travel arrangements, roommates, and sometimes provide on-site mentors that function much like a Resident Assistant. The fee is for the third party company to facilitate and take responsibility for the entire experience.

To get involved or not?
Before signing on to use these types of programs, ask yourself if you have exhausted all other potential internship avenues. Also, invest some time in researching the organization(s) you are considering hiring for your internship experience. The questions below are provided to help you think through this option.

Research & Reflection Questions:
- Have you completed thorough research on the organization, their history, and fees?
- Have you researched (and compared) other fee-based internship providers and their fees?
- Do you know the application fee and any additional fees? Can financial aid be used for this program? Have you seen an itemized list of what you receive for the fee?
- Do you get a chance to change your mind?
- Are the fees you are paying in line with other fee-based internship providers?
- Has the operator been in business for long?
- Is the operator a member of a professional association?
- Do you know what the outcomes for previous participants have been (i.e. job offers)?
- Is it possible to speak with previous participants about the experience?
- Do you know the name of the company you will be doing the internship with?
- Is your role as an intern clear and specific?
- Do you know what happens if the internship finishes prematurely?
- Have you established clear timeframes around your participation?
- If going overseas do you know what support is available to you?
- If going overseas are you provided with accommodation, medical or language assistance?
- Will you be provided support by the provider?
- Will the provider collaborate with faculty in order to facilitate academic credit for this experience?

Further Support is Available:
If you have conduct research and are still unsure of this choice or if you would like to know if Loyola University Chicago has any knowledge of the organization(s) you're considering, you are encouraged to make an appointment with your Career Advisor by calling 773-508-7716 for an appointment.

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