



**Join us for an innovative and sustainable project!
Let's give young, talented people in Southern Africa a stepping stone toward a better future.**

Background:

To graduate, students at our partner universities are required to complete an internship. However, the difficult economic situation in the region has reduced the number of internship openings.

Due to the Corona pandemic and the travel restrictions, the internships in Switzerland that have been organized under our successful «Northbound» program can currently only be offered on a small scale to Southern African students. If and when the program can be resumed in its original form is difficult to predict.

Objectives:

We want to protect and if possible, grow the valuable program for international education beyond the pandemic. We wish to build a program with long-term resilience and the capability to grant a larger number of internships to students from Southern Africa.

The solution:







B360 Virtual Internships Project. High-potential students from Southern Africa get the opportunity to complete a virtual internship lasting 3-4 months at a Swiss company or organization. Recognition and credits by the relevant university is ensured. The pilot took place from April to July and was successfully completed. **The next virtual internships are planned for early 2022.**

The program:

As part of a carefully structured program, interns are assigned daily tasks and a small project by the partner company. They participate in B360's Career Starter Course (duration 7 weeks) and in IT training. In addition, they are involved in a cultural exchange program with a Swiss «host» family during the internship.

The program focuses on developing the professional and social competencies relevant in business. Also, participants get insight into the Swiss working world and culture.

The program has been developed by B360 education partnerships in cooperation with professionals in Switzerland and Namibia, with our partner Namibia University of Science and Technology NUST and with the support of the STAUB KAISER FOUNDATION.

 <p>Intern</p> <p>Students are enrolled in a Bachelor or Master program. They are 20 to 28 years of age.</p>	 <p>B360 education partnerships</p> <p>B360 organizes and coordinates the internships. B360 supports all project partners and the interns</p>	 <p>Swiss organization</p> <p>Swiss companies introduce the interns in the working world and everyday routines. A mentor is nominated to manage and coach each intern. The internships last 3-4 months.</p>
 <p>University</p> <p>University provides the interns a workplace. B360 provides laptops, software, smartphones, internet access. Local professors ensure the academic guidance and assessment.</p>	 <p>Special Courses</p> <p>Through B360's 7 week Career Starter Course and the structured IT training, the students get to know the principal aspects and business tools of the working world.</p>	 <p>Cultural exchange</p> <p>Virtual host families and B360 volunteers cater for the cultural exchange between Switzerland and Southern Africa.</p>

We are looking for:

Project partners: Companies or organizations willing to offer a 3- to 4-month, **virtual internship** to a Southern African student.

Host families willing to join a virtual **cultural exchange** with an intern from Southern Africa.

Interested? Please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.
Sabina Balmer, Phone +41 79 253 00 14, sabina.balmer@b360.ch

B360 education partnerships

Since 2009, B360 has been sending volunteer experts as lecturers to universities in Southern Africa («**Southbound**» program). In the opposite direction, B360 has enabled 90 students from Namibia, Zambia and South Africa to complete a three-month internship in Switzerland («**Northbound**» program). In the meantime, many of them have started successful professional careers in their home countries. Under the «**South-South**» program, B360 experts work jointly with Namibian professionals. The «**Virtual Volunteering**» program was started in 2020 and has enabled B360 to gather experience with E-learning.