



University of Economics in Katowice

Master Degree Programme in International Business – Internship Guidelines

General Objective

The purpose of the internship or experiential learning experience is to enable **International Business** students to gain valuable work experience within the international business environment. This experience is designed to complement the course work taken so that your business education experience is enhanced. Experiential learning is an educational plan that integrates classroom study with practical work experience. It is intended to contribute meaningfully to your over-all preparation by providing an opportunity for the practical application of skills and concepts learned in classes.

The Internship should offer the student the opportunity to:

- Get practical experience within the international business environment.
- Gain a more complete understanding of various international business issues.
- Develop the ability to analyze and propose solutions to international business problems.
- More fully understand the activities and functions of international business professionals.
- Develop the student's capacity and competence for work in multicultural environment.
- Develop a greater understanding about career options in international business.
- Help with more clearly defining personal career goals.

The internship is obligatory. It is not possible to obtain exemption from the internship.

Timing and duration

The internship is obligatory and it is to take place after the completion of the first year of studies, preferably after finishing the third semester of studies.

The internship is designed to take 3 months (12 weeks) - that is the minimum number of on-the-job hours is 25 a week, which makes the total of 300 hours. The number of ECTS points to be obtained from the internship is **10**.

The internship can be completed:

- without interruption (in the summer after the 1st year of studies, or in the 3rd semester)
- in two parts – 6 weeks each – (in the summer after the 1st year of studies, and during the 3rd semester)
- on a part-time basis (12 months after the 1st year of studies, minimum 25 hours per month)

Internship requirements

The internship should take place in an company or institution engaged in international activities. These may be small- and medium-sized enterprises, large enterprises, trans- or multinational companies, chambers (e.g. Chamber of Commerce), foreign representations (embassies, consulates), international organizations, as well as research institutes, non-governmental organizations, local administration offices, governmental institutions etc., if involved internationally. The internship should lead to the accomplishment of educational effects as designed in the International Business study programme.

The internship can be done at any place of residence, outside of Poland, as well. Such internships can be arranged as stated above, but other possibilities (e.g. through AIESEC or the Erasmus internship program) are also acceptable. The same requirements and regulations are in effect for internships outside of Poland, although the formal requirements may be adapted to the legal and cultural environment of the host country to the degree necessary.

The company or institution where the internship is to be achieved **must be approved by the Thesis Supervisor or the International Business Coordinator in advance**, before the agreement of cooperation is signed.

The role of the company/institution

The institution must provide the following for the student:

- An internship supervisor
- Concrete tasks to be achieved which fit into the student's field of studies
- All the means necessary for the student to achieve the tasks
- Professional and work guidance
- Feedback on the work performed by the student and the quality of the work achieved

At the end of the internship, the internship supervisor certifies the completion of the internship by filling in and signing a **Certificate of Internship Completion** and evaluates the student's performance based on a given set of criteria to be provided by the University.

Documentation to the Dean's Office

The Internship Report should contain:

Company Description. A brief description (1 page) of the company or institution for which the student was working. This should include the nature of the products and services offered or activities conducted with special focus on the firm's international activity scale and scope.

Job Description. The job description (2-3 pages) should give detailed account of the tasks performed, including: the job characteristic and place of employment, a record of activities conducted, the scope of duties and responsibility, the skills and qualifications required and developed, a description of job relationships regarding the intercultural aspects.

The Internship Report should be signed by the student **and the internship supervisor**

Additional information

For specific questions regarding the internship and the required documents, please contact

Cooperation Office with Business and Graduates

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