

Internship Guidelines

University of Passau

for Bachelor's and Master's Programmes

Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INTERNSHIP

Objectives of the internship:

An internship provides students with the opportunity to gain professional experiences in an interesting field of activity before they complete their studies. This provides them with the opportunity to explore whether they are well qualified for the desired career path, to further put the qualifications acquired during their studies into practice and to present themselves to a potential future employer, all by collecting their own experiences.

Content of the internship:

The internship ought to be a job- or project-related occupation, usually completed outside the university environment, in which the students work as dependent employees. It is to be completed with a private or public employer and should have a significant relation to the chosen subjects and specialisations of the degree programme or the intended professional activity. Holiday jobs and activities for the sole purpose of earning a living without any further training and learning character are not suitable as internships. The same applies to activities which do not differ from the scope of duties of a student assistant. In case of doubt, please contact the responsible [internship supervisor](#) (usually your programme coordinator) in advance.

Duration of the internship:

The duration of the internship is regulated by the study and examination regulations; a duration of **three months** is to be understood **as twelve weeks, two months as eight weeks** and **one month as four weeks**. The dates on the internship certificate (*Praktikumszeugnis*) are relevant for the recognition process. The duration of the internship is to be understood as **full-time employment**; in case of part-time employment, the duration needs to be extended accordingly. Sick days, public holidays or holidays approved by the employer do not have to be reworked separately. The internship is usually completed in one coherent period.

A **division** into two or three internships is possible, but a partial internship (if completed with different employers) must not be shorter than four weeks.

Internship abroad:

The examination regulations determine whether the internship is to be completed in Germany or abroad. If the examination regulations explicitly require an internship abroad, it must be completed at a business location outside Germany. Foreign students may also complete the internship abroad within Germany. For internships abroad, the University of Passau offers various scholarships and support programmes. You can find more information on the [Homepage of the Centre for Careers and Competencies](#).

Timing of the internship:

The internship is usually carried out outside lecture periods. When scheduling the internship, it is important to avoid collisions with courses. It is recommended that bachelor students complete their internship between the third and sixth semester. A semester of leave of absence (*Urlaubssemester*) can be applied for if the internship covers more than six weeks falling within the lecture period.

You can find more information on how to apply for a **semester of leave of absence** on the website of the [Student Registration Office](#).

An internship completed before commencing your studies in Passau, but after obtaining the higher education entrance qualification, may be recognised if it fulfils the other conditions. However, there is no entitlement to recognition. It is also possible to complete the mandatory internship as final part of the degree programme, i.e. after submitting the final thesis. The last semester may be a semester of leave of absence, provided that you do not wish to take exams for the first time in that semester, which also includes grade improvements, or do not wish to register or hand in the bachelor's thesis (exception: resitting failed exams is also possible during a semester of leave of absence).

Recognition of comparable achievements as internships:

Even in the case of services that deviate from internships in the narrower sense, the overarching teaching-learning character based on the definition of the German Rectors' Conference must be maintained in order to guarantee the achievement of the overarching qualification goal of the degree programme.¹ The general goal of internships for students is to practise temporary (scientific) work at independent learning locations (ideally) outside of the university and to make them adaptable in order to prepare them for the targeted labour market and its professional reality.

A successfully completed vocational training before commencing studies in Passau can be recognised as an internship if the other conditions, in particular the relevance for the study programme, are met. However, there is no entitlement to recognition. In this case, an internship report must also be submitted in accordance with the programme-specific guidelines listed below. The following occupations can usually not be recognised as internships: au-pair stays, military service, civilian service, etc. In any case of doubt, please contact the responsible [internship supervisor](#) in advance.

"Service Learning:

Another way to complete your internship is through "service learning". Service learning is about learning through social engagement. Here, "service" stands for taking on voluntary tasks and social responsibility within or outside the university context. You may have already been active in civil society or socially engaged in the course of your studies at home or abroad and can now reflect on these experiences, or you may have an opportunity to become active in your final months of study. In your involvement, you have acquired important competences relevant to civil society, e.g. by getting to know approaches to successful communication, organising events, testing problem-solving strategies, comprehending value attitudes, implementing projects and thereby increasing your (self-)reflection skills and advocating for socially relevant issues. Here, too, a reference to the chosen degree programme must be recognisable, and if the curriculum requires a compulsory internship abroad, the service learning must also have taken place abroad.

Procedure and application:

In order to be able to recognise one of the options outlined above as an internship, the duration should be at least the same as the classic internship, i.e. approx. 150 hours for

¹ Cf. <https://www.hrk-nexus.de/glossar-der-studienreform/begriff/praktika/4625/>

a one-month internship, approx. 300 hours for a two-month internship, approx. 450 hours for a three-month internship. The duration of the vocational training is to be proven by a confirmation of the employer or a work or training certificate. The duration of the service learning is to be proven by a confirmation of the university group, organisation or institution.

In any case, a report of the same length as the regular internship report must be submitted in which you reflect on your findings and experiences according to common scientific standards.

If you would like to have the internship or service learning recognised, please contact the [internship supervisor](#) responsible for you in advance to discuss recognition possibilities and implementation.

Search for an internship:

In principle, the students themselves are responsible for finding an internship position, agreeing on the activities during the internship and clarifying the course of the internship with the employer. The university supports them (within the scope of its possibilities) by providing advice, information and, if necessary, letters of recommendation through the Centre for Careers and Competencies or the respective [internship supervisor](#). With [Ca-reersUP](#), the University of Passau also provides you with a job database.

Confirmation of mandatory internships and model contracts:

Confirmations of mandatory internships as well as model internship contracts in various languages can be found on the pages of the Centre for Careers and Competencies in the section [“All about the internship”](#). If the employer requires a signature of the university on an internship contract, please contact the ZKK and ideally use the templates of the model internship contracts.

Recognition of the internship:

After completing the internship, the student must apply for recognition as a proper part of your curriculum. The following documents must be submitted in the following order:

1. **Completed and signed** [application form for the recognition of an internship](#)
2. **Internship certificate** from the employer stating the exact duration of the internship including a signature (it is sufficient to submit a copy, however the student must be able to present the original certificate upon request)
3. **Written internship report**
4. For internships abroad, the [form for recording stays abroad](#) on the basis of the legal requirements of the Higher German Education Statistics Act

The documents should be merged into **one PDF document** and handed in for recognition **via e-mail** to the programme coordination (internship@sobi.uni-passau.de).

Please name the file as follows: “Last name, first name_study programme_date.pdf” (example: “Doe, Jane_BA_ICBS_01.01.2020.pdf”). Files that do not meet these specifications will not be processed.

It is recommended to write the report soon after the end of the internship and to submit all documents as soon as possible. However, there is no deadline for the submission of the documents or the recognition of the internship. It is strongly recommended to submit the report approximately one month before the recognition is due; a shorter processing period cannot be guaranteed.

Once examined and recognized, the documents are directly forwarded to the examination office responsible where the successful recognition is indicated by an entry in the HISQIS/Campusportal transcript of records. It is not necessary² to register for the internship in HISQIS/Campusportal. There will be no separate notification by e-mail about the recognition from your internship supervisor.

Internship report:

The internship report must provide information on the following points, which define the structure of the report. Remember that the report should not only serve as part of the recognition process of the internship by the internship supervisor, but should also provide information about the employer and the place of work for your fellow students, who might want to view your (anonymised) report later. If the internship is split into two different internships, one report that proportionally covers both internships is submitted.

- Brief introduction of the employer
- Path to the internship (How did you get the internship? What was the application and selection process like?)
- Own activities and tasks during the internship
- Reflection on the relation to the study focus/subjects or the relevance for the intended professional field
- Personal experiences (finding accommodation, leisure activities, (intercultural) challenges)
- Would you recommend the internship to others?

The report must be written according to the standards applicable to academic papers. Reports that contain serious linguistic or formal deficiencies are rejected and must be reworked.

Formal requirements:

DIN A4 format, black font (e.g. Arial; no font with fixed increments such as Courier), font size max. 12 pt., line spacing 1.5, full justification, hyphenation, page margins 2.5 cm on the left, right and top and 2 cm on the bottom.

Internship reports may contain illustrations, i.e. images including captions (the latter explaining the content and source of the image). A single illustration may have a maximum size of one third of a DIN A4 page. One page of illustrations is allowed per ten pages of the internship report. For reports with a different page minimum, this specification applies proportionally.

² Note: If you complete your internship as part of a combined module, e.g. consisting of internship and study abroad period, the corresponding ECTS credits will only appear on your transcript of records when both parts have been recognised and booked in the Campusportal.

Quotations, e.g. from company brochures, must be marked. Disproportionately long quotations will not be counted towards the required page count. The minimum number of pages specified in each case is understood to be continuous text only, i.e. cover page, table of contents, appendices etc. are not taken into account in the page count.

Language requirements:

In principle, the report is to be written in German. If the business language is English, the report may also be written in English.

Further recommendations:

Further advice and recommendations (internship recommendations, model internship contracts in German and other languages) are provided on the website of the [Centre of Careers and Competencies](#) and by the [internship supervisors](#), usually the members of the Programme Coordination.

Contact person:

You can find the contact details of the programme coordination (*Studiengangskoordination*) and the Centre for Careers and Competencies at the University of Passau www.uni-passau.de/zkk <https://www.sobi.uni-passau.de/fakultaetsorganisation/studiengangskoordination>

Summary of the recognition process:

Please submit the following documents:

- [Application form for recognition of an internship](#)
- Internship certificate
- Internship report according to the above-mentioned requirements
- if necessary, [form for recording stays abroad](#)

merged into one PDF document titled "Last name, first name_study programme_date of submission.pdf" to internship@sobi.uni-passau.de for recognition.

The length of the internship report depends on the demanded length of the internship:

- One-month internship: five-page report in German or English
- Six-week, two- or three-month internship: ten-page report in German or English

The programme coordination is responsible for the recognition of all internships.

REGULATIONS FOR THE INDIVIDUAL DEGREE PROGRAMMES

B.A. Governance and Public Policy:

Students under the study and examination regulations versions as of either 2010 or 2018 complete an **internship** of at least **two months in Germany or abroad** with an internship report in German or English of at least ten pages.

M.A. Development Studies:

Within the module area D “Transfer” (study and examination regulations 2019 only) students need to complete a project module of **at least four weeks**. This can be in the form of an individual research project, or in the form of an **internship in Germany or abroad**. In case of an internship, students have to submit a report of at least ten pages in German or English. The [Guide to the Project Work](#) and the [recognition form](#) can be found on the pages of the [Programme Coordination](#).

M.A. Geography: Culture, Environment and Tourism:

Students studying under the study and examination regulations as of 2018 need to complete an **internship abroad of at least one month**. Before the internship starts, its qualification target needs to be agreed upon with the heads of the examination board of the degree programme, [Prof. Dr. Werner Gameraith](#) and/or [Prof. Dr. Christine Schmitt](#). A report of approx. 20 pages in German or English has to be submitted with the Programme Co-ordination.

M.A. Governance and Public Policy:

Students under the study and examination regulations versions as of 2024 complete an **internship** of at least **two months in Germany or abroad** with an internship report in German or English of at least ten pages.

Students studying under the study and examination regulations as of 2015 can choose to complete a **four-week internship in the master's thesis module**. You must submit a report of at least five pages in German or English for the recognition.

M.A. Communication in Digital Societies:

Students can choose to complete a **one-month or a two-month internship in Germany or abroad**. For the recognition of a one-month internship a report of at least five pages must be submitted, for the recognition of the two-months internship a report of at least ten pages in German or English is required.