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Schools Abroad

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ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP

Description

In Cameroon, numerous non-governmental organizations and social entrepreneurship initiatives are actively engaged in addressing critical issues such as public health, nutrition, environmental sustainability, and access to clean drinking water, among other pressing development challenges. This dynamic landscape provides an exceptional setting for university internships, offering students the opportunity to observe and contribute to real-world efforts aimed at solving societal problems. Through such an experience, students can bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in academic settings and its practical application in professional environments. Additionally, internships foster the development of essential professional competencies, expand students' networks, and enhance their linguistic and intercultural skills.

Students are encouraged to pursue both credit-bearing and non-credit internship opportunities. Drawing on an extensive network of national and international organizations, the program facilitates placements that align students' academic backgrounds and professional interests across diverse fields, including environmental sustainability, health, microeconomics, art and culture, and education.

To ensure meaningful engagement and reflective learning, bi-monthly meetings will be conducted with supervisors to assess students' progress and evaluate their learning outcomes. At the conclusion of the internship, each student will be required to submit and present a comprehensive internship report, synthesizing their experiences and insights gained throughout the program.

Internship requirements

- Interns are required to commit an average of 10 hours per week, totaling a minimum of 100 hours of active engagement at the host organization's site.
- Interns must complete 10 hours of coursework focused on professional, ethical, and intercultural responsibilities within the context of an academic internship.
- Interns will produce a 25-page internship report in French, encompassing a structured analysis from introduction to conclusion. This report will be evaluated by both a field specialist and a faculty member.
- The final internship report must be presented upon completion of the internship period.
- Interns are required to maintain a bi-monthly journal documenting their progress, key experiences, and reflections on the internship.

Learning objectives

The internship consists of 110 hours of practical engagement, corresponding to 4 academic credits. Upon successful completion of the internship, students will be able to:

- Critically reflect on their internship experience through the preparation of a comprehensive report and an oral presentation;
- Acquire and apply practical work experience relevant to their academic discipline;
- Integrate theoretical knowledge into a professional setting;
- Exhibit ethical awareness and professional responsibility in the workplace;
- Analyze the structure and functioning of Cameroonian civil society;
- Demonstrate an understanding of how Cameroonian cultural norms and practices influence organizational dynamics and outcomes;
- Enhance proficiency in oral and written communication in French.

Reflection, Evaluation, and Assessment

Students will participate in bi-weekly, one-hour reflection and evaluation meetings with the educational advisor to assess their progress and the learning outcomes associated with the internship experience. At the conclusion of the internship, students must submit a comprehensive internship report. Written assignments and oral presentations will be evaluated based on their quality and adherence to ethical standards.

The final grade for the internship will be determined as follows:

- Internship Project: 10%
- Internship Log and Timetable: 10%
- Performance During the Internship: 20%
- Internship Report: 40%
- Oral Presentation of the Internship Report: 20%

Readings

Covey, S. R. (2016). *Les 7 habitudes des gens efficaces : Se donner les moyens du succès (1re édition). First. (Ouvrage original publié en 1989 sous le titre The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People).*

Kasanoff, B. (2013). *Faites votre travail, pas votre CV : Développez les compétences et les relations qui vous apporteront le succès.* First Career Press.

Maublanc, J. (2015). *Le stage dans l'enseignement supérieur, un dispositif riche de potentialités et de risques.* Éducation et socialisation, (37). <https://journals.openedition.org/edso/714>