

School of Government

MMPM 552 / MAPP 582 / STRA 521
INTERNSHIP
(15 Points)

Trimester J / 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator: **Dr Russell Harding**
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Office Hours: 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Trimester Dates

This internship is completed over two consecutive trimesters.

Trimester J/2009 covers the period of trimesters 2 **and** 3/2009.

The dates for trimester J/2009 are Monday 13 July 2009 to Saturday 20 February 2010.

Class Times and Room Numbers

No formal classes are associated with this course. The internship course takes place in consultation with the course coordinator and at the premises of the agency in which the internship occurs.

Withdrawal Dates

Students giving notice of withdrawal from this course after **Friday 24 July 2009** will NOT receive a refund of fees.

Students giving notice of withdrawal from this course after **Friday 4 December 2009** are regarded as having failed the course, unless the Associate Dean subsequently gives approval to withdraw.

Notice of withdrawal must be in writing / emailed to the Masters Administrator. Ceasing to attend or verbally advising a member of staff will NOT be accepted as a notice of withdrawal.

Course Content

An internship is a structured, supervised placement within a department or agency, to achieve particular educational objectives. It provides an experiential opportunity to explore the linkages between theory and practice. Internships are not compulsory, and should be undertaken as a part of achieving a student's educational objectives. The focus of an internship is the synthesis between theory and practice.

In this regard, it is important to note that an internship is not professional development. This is usually training based and should be undertaken in the normal course of employment. Neither is an internship designed to fill skills gaps or to develop new skills. This too should be undertaken in the normal course of employment. Finally, an internship is not a replacement for a secondment, which can be arranged in conjunction with career development. What distinguishes an internship from these organisational experiences is the academic component which provides the focus for the internship.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Critically evaluate the relationship between theory and practice in public management/public policy/strategic studies;
- Appreciate the contribution of theory to practice;
- Analyse the divergence (where applicable) of practice from theory; and
- Integrate this perspective into their own practice.

Course Delivery

No formal classes are associated with this course. The internship course takes place in consultation with the course coordinator and at the premises of the agency in which the internship occurs.

Expected Workload

The internship covers 150 hours, to be completed over a period from one to three months. It is important to ensure that agency placement and completion of course requirements occur within the enrolment period selected. Please discuss this with the Internship Convenor at an early opportunity.

Readings

As each internship is different, there are no specified readings for this course. However, students are expected to have read widely in the literature surrounding the theory that is the focus of the internship.

Internship Placement

Choice of host agency is subject to approval of the Internship Convenor. Approval will be based on the fit of the agency to the educational objectives contained in the internship proposal. The School does not usually have a prearranged list of opportunities for internships, but seeks to organise placements to meet students' educational objectives. Students are encouraged to contribute actively to identify placement opportunities which are consistent with their educational objectives. However, no approaches to departments or agencies are to be made without the permission of the Internship Convenor.

NOTE: Sometimes it may not be possible to match student educational objectives with a placement. In this case, the Internship Convenor will give sufficient notice to allow a student to withdraw from this course and have sufficient time to substitute another course.

NOTE: It is important that agencies benefit from having an intern in their organisation. The Internship Convenor will assess whether the student has the prerequisite background for a successful outcome. In particular, agencies expect interns to have a professional standard of written and oral communication, and familiarity with the institutions and processes affecting their organisation. Internship opportunities take time to initiate, it is important to discuss your interest at an early stage with the Internship Convenor. Internship opportunities can rarely be arranged on short notice.

Internship Agreement

An internship is governed by an internship agreement concluded between the student, the supervisor in the host agency and the Internship Convenor. The agreement specifies the deliverables of the internship, their format and timing of delivery. Conclusion of an agreement is required *prior* to the commencement of the internship. Students are expected to take the lead in drafting, circulating and arranging for signatures on these agreements. The course coordinator will supply a template.

Assessment Requirements

Students will be assessed on an internship proposal, a final report and a report from the agency supervisor of the internship. This course is assessed on a graded basis per the Victoria University *Assessment Handbook*.

The purpose of assessment is three-fold: 1) to ensure students have met the standard of work required of the course; 2) to give feedback on a student's performance to assist with future study; and 3) to provide the course coordinator with feedback on the internship course. Students will be assessed on the basis of their individual work.

Summary of Assessment Requirements				
Assignment	Type	Indicative length	Due Date	Percentage of Overall Mark
Internship proposal	Written	2,000 words	Friday 10 July 2009	30 percent
Final report	Written	5,000 words	Friday 5 February 2010	60 percent
Manager's report	Written	Reporting form	Friday 12 February 2010	10 percent

1. Prepare an internship proposal of not less than 2,000 words which:

- Explains how an internship contributes to the objectives of the student's overall study;
- Describes a theory or concept of interest to the student which is the focus for the internship;
- Explicitly describes the theory-practice linkage to be elucidated or illustrated by the experiences gained through the internship.

This assignment will be assessed based on the quality of the writing, the thoroughness of the description of the theory or concept, and the closeness of the connection made between elucidation of the theory or concept and access to a practice-based internship.

2. Prepare a report on the internship which explicitly addresses the linkage between theory and practice. The theoretical component of this is to be based on the internship proposal. Compare and contrast the theory as presented in the literature and as observed in practice during the internship. Explain the divergence (if any) between the two. Based on the internship, what have you learned that will inform your own practice?

This assignment will be assessed based on the quality of the writing and on the quality of analysis in reflecting on theory and practice.

3. Arrange for a report from the supervising manager of the internship on the supplied form.

Please submit all three assignments via the Blackboard Website established for these courses.

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

Note: Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The

findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this course, you are required to:

1. Submit an internship proposal;
2. Complete an internship agreement *prior* to commencing the internship; and
3. Submit a final report by the due date.

Deadlines and Failure to Meet Due Dates

The ability to plan for and meet deadlines is a core competency of both advanced study and public management. Failure to meet deadlines disrupts course planning and is unfair on students who do submit their work on time. It is expected therefore that you will complete and hand in assignments by the due date. Marks will be deducted at the rate of five per cent for every day by which the assignment is late and no assignments will be accepted after five working days beyond the date they are due. For example, if you get 65% for an assignment, but you handed it in on Monday when it was due the previous Friday, you will get a mark of 50%.

If ill-health, family bereavement or other personal circumstances beyond your control prevent you from meeting the deadline for submitting a piece of written work or from attending class to make a presentation, you can apply for and may be granted an extension to the due date. You should let your course coordinator know as soon as possible in advance of the deadline (if circumstances permit) if you are seeking an extension. Where an extension is sought, evidence, by way of a medical certificate or similar, may be required by the course coordinator.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information may be provided in person, by telephone, post, or email.

Other Information

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/academic.aspx>

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/Contactus.aspx>

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/