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Victoria Management School

## **TOUR 320 TOURISM PRACTICUM**

Summer Trimester 2010

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

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#### **COURSE COORDINATOR**

**Dr Mondher Sahli**

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Phone: 463 5718

Email: [mondher.sahli@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:mondher.sahli@vuw.ac.nz)

#### **ADMINISTRATOR**

**Carol Wheatley (15 November - 21 December 2010)**

Room: RH 927, Rutherford House

Phone: 463 5720

Email: [carol.wheatley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:carol.wheatley@vuw.ac.nz)

Any enquires after the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010 please contact Dr Mondher Sahli via his University email address.

#### **TRIMESTER DATES**

Monday 15 November 2010 – Friday 11 February 2011 (inclusive)

#### **Withdrawal from Courses:**

Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 21st November 2010.

The last date for withdrawal from this course is the three-quarter point of the teaching period, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011. After that date, permission to withdraw requires the permission of the Associate Dean (Students) as set out in section 8 of the Personal Courses of Study Statute <http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000001743.pdf>

To apply for permission, fill in the Late Withdrawal form available from either of our Student Customer Service Desks.

## **Introduction**

An important component of the Bachelor of Tourism Management is the practicum. Each senior undergraduate student is expected to complete 240 hours of work to gain practical experience within the tourism industry. This practicum course provides students with the opportunity to apply concepts and theories gained from other courses and their own reading to a better understanding of the functioning of some aspect of the tourism industry. The practicum is administrated under the supervision of the course coordinator and will also involve the production of an appropriate academic report. An outline of this report must be submitted to the course coordinator within three weeks of registration.

## **Programme and Course-related Learning Objectives**

Learning Goal #1: Our graduates will possess and apply specific knowledge of tourism management as well as a range of transferable skills

Learning Objectives; Graduates will be able to:

- (a) demonstrate a systematic understanding of theoretical and applied aspects of tourism management
- (b) display an appreciation for concepts and methods that inform the management of tourism organizations, businesses, and resources
- (c) acquire skills and knowledge that provide a solid platform for graduate study

Learning Goal #2: Our graduates will demonstrate application of critical and creative thinking skills to practical and theoretical problems

Learning Objectives; Graduates will be able to:

- (a) think conceptually and systematically about tourism and its management
- (b) assess a range of tourism management issues, plans, and concepts
- (c) identify, access, and evaluate a range of information and data sources
- (d) undertake and apply research in tourism management
- (e) use innovative thinking and creative skills in the context of the tourism business environment

Learning Goal #3: Our graduates will be effective and confident communicators

Learning Objectives; Graduates will be able to:

- (a) apply advanced written communication skills
- (b) demonstrate oral communication and listening skills
- (c) prepare and deliver polished and professional oral presentations
- (d) communicate effectively with peers when undertaking group projects

Learning Goal #4: By meeting the above learning goals, our graduates will display leadership and be able to assume positions of responsibility

Learning Objectives; Graduates will be able to:

- (a) engage in effective decision making by working independently and in groups
- (b) demonstrate a mastery of concepts related to tourism management
- (c) develop and apply concepts and plans in tourism management

## **Overall Course Objectives**

There is evidence to show that graduates who gain work experience as part of their tertiary qualifications get jobs more easily than those with similar qualifications but without the experience. It makes sense –employers want the qualifications and the experience!-

This practicum course offers opportunities for senior undergraduate students to:

- Develop essential personal and interpersonal skills.
- Make contacts which lead to future career advantage and increase their confidence in identifying the right career path.
- Acquire an appreciation for good leadership in a tourism workplace.
- Test and evaluate management concepts and theories in a practical context.
- Discuss the difference between the theoretical learning gained in class compared to the firsthand experience gained in a business.
- Gain an awareness of the business environment in which their host organisation takes place.
- Discuss the styles of management in operation at the host organization.
- Understand the day-to-day skills, practices and operations involved in relevant tourism-related organisations.

## **Course-related Student Learning Objectives and Skills**

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and appreciate the value of leadership in a tourism workplace.
- Understand the role and discuss the importance of applying concepts and research knowledge to practical situations.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of how to evaluate the potential of a tourism business.
- Describe the nature of the business in terms of organizational structure; management and channels of communications; clients; products; competition; customer service strategy; marketing strategy; employee requirements and hiring criteria; quality appraisal systems and sustainability practices.
- Identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the host organisation and provide recommendations.
- Clarify career interests.
- Gain experience in workplace.

## **Course Content**

Assessment of the industry experience is by an appropriate academic report (5500 words) to be submitted by **Thursday 3 February 2011 by 4:30pm.**

Any questions concerning the appropriateness of work experience or research projects should be directed to the course coordinator.

## **Readings**

There is no set text for this practicum course as no one book adequately covers the range of issues that will be addressed. Specific references and readings will be discussed with the course coordinator.

## Assessment

	<i>Value</i>	<i>Due date</i>
Milestone submission	-	Thursday, 28 October 2010
Final submission	100%	Thursday, 3 February 2011

The main objective of this exercise is to consolidate your knowledge and skills you have gained from the BTM and other courses and to develop vocational skills. Learning by doing and learning through more intense involvement is much more likely to result in real mastery and retention of the material than more passive forms of learning. That is why we encourage you to take the project report seriously and have some fun with it to explore concepts and theories learnt from other courses.

The assignment is to be presented in two parts, a **milestone submission on Thursday 28 October 2010** and a **final submission on Thursday 3 February 2011**.

### Milestone submission

No later than **Thursday 28 October 2010**, please let the course coordinator know what you have chosen as your focus on the project. To do this, you are expected to prepare a brief summary of your report (500 words-about 2 pages). **Please make sure your email address is on the front page.**

It must be submitted and placed in the appropriate TOUR 320 box on the mezzanine floor of Rutherford House by 4:30 p.m. on the due date. This is a useful exercise in advance of the final report. *The earlier you submit written work, the more likely that we can provide you with timely feedback that you will be able to use in preparing your final report.*

### *Content:*

- Name of the company and its location
- Brief description of its vision and mission statements; key business objectives/goals; structure; product(s); clients; competitors.
- Statement of what you will cover in your report (e.g. what are the main features you expect to observe/discuss)
- Brief list of the range of sources of knowledge that you will use in your report, such as theory, primary and secondary research.

### Final submission

This is the project report documentation. It should be **no more than 5500 words** in length, and fully referenced to include all the literature sources you have read. It must be submitted and placed in the appropriate TOUR 320 box (**number 20**) on the mezzanine floor of Rutherford House by **4:30 p.m. on the due date (Thursday, 3 February 2011)**. **PLEASE SEND THE COURSE COORDINATOR AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF YOUR REPORT AS WELL.**

The final report should be structured appropriately and integrate practical issues with a theoretical context where possible. It should comprise the following 12 sections described below.

- a. **Executive summary**
- b. **Introduction**
- c. **Company history**
- d. **Mission statement**
- e. **Critical appraisal of the internal environment**
- f. **Critical appraisal of the external environment**
- g. **SWOT analysis**
- h. **Recommendations**
- i. **Conclusion**
- j. **References**
- k. **Appendices**
- l. **Letter from the employer**

### **Introduction**

- The place of work.
- Its geographic location; region/city/town accompanied by a sketch map.
- Length of time - number of hours - at each place.
- Tasks undertaken.
- Define the visitor services area.
- The nature of the service/s provided – transport, accommodation, attraction, activity etc.
- Who the services are provided for: mainly (a) tourists and/or (b) other visitors.
- Position and relative importance of the place and tasks in the broad tourist - visitor services spectrum - centrality of tourism (may relate to location).

### **A critical appraisal of the internal environment**

- Describe the organizational structure of the company.
- Comment on the management of the host organisation and its channels of communications – relate this to theory.
- Describe and discuss its leadership characteristics and styles. What leadership characteristics do the manager's display?
- Evaluate its HR management policies and career opportunities.
- Describe the organizational culture.
- Discuss the value of diversity within this organization.
- Lines of command or control, training and supervision provided – in-house training for those on a career path.
- Is there a quality appraisal system in place? If so, what is it and how does it work? If not, why?
- What is the organisation's marketing strategy?
- Local or national or international?
- How important is each market segment?
- How is marketing undertaken?
- How effective is the marketing programme?
- Is there an evaluation of the marketing programme, if so how is it undertaken, if not, why?

- What is its distribution strategy? Is it effective?
- Are there legal and environmental issues associated with this business?

### **A critical appraisal of the external environment**

- Identify the main competitors of the organization.
- What is the market-segment that it targets?
- Who are its suppliers?

### **SWOT analysis**

- What are the organisation's strengths?
- How are they capitalised on?
- What are the weaknesses?
- In what ways and why are they weaknesses?
- How might the weaknesses be addressed?
- What are the organisation's opportunities? How are they capitalised on?
- What are the threats?

### **Please 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

### **Communication**

If you have any queries, you are welcome to contact the course coordinator by phone or email. Appointments can be made at any time that is mutually convenient. An e-mail list of all students will be created and will be used to communicate information to all class members.

### **Penalties for Late Assignments**

The Tourism Management Group has implemented a standardized late penalty for all tourism courses. Students who submit late assignments will be penalized at a rate of **5% per day** (including weekends). Work will not be accepted more than 7 days after the due date. Students who do not submit an assignment before the 7 days have elapsed will not meet the Mandatory Course Requirements.

Extensions will only be granted under special circumstances by the course co-ordinator. Students who apply for an extension due to illness must obtain a medical certificate. Medical certificates must specify that the student is "unfit to study" or "unfit to sit an examination." **Medical certificates must also indicate the period of time involved.** Please take note: workload pressures and computer problems are not a case for extension.

Please submit late assignments to the tourism administrator (Rutherford House, Room 927, telephone: 463 5720).

## Mandatory Course Requirements

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this paper you must:

1. Complete 240 hours of approved industrial work experience,
2. Submit a milestone report, and
3. Submit the final report, inclusive of a letter from your employer confirming your work experience.

Notice of Failure to meet Mandatory Course Requirements will be posted on Blackboard or on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Mezzanine Floors, Rutherford House notice boards. Students will be expected to check both places for notification.

## Grading Guidelines

The following broad indicative characterisations of grade will apply in grading assignments and the exam:

A+	Excellent performance in all respects at this level
A	Excellent performance in almost all respects at this level
A-	Excellent performance in many respects at this level
B+	Very good, some aspects excellent
B, B-	Good but not excellent performance at this level
C+, C	Work satisfactory overall but inadequate in some respects
D	Poor performance overall, some aspects adequate
E	Well below the required standard
K	Failure to achieve mandatory course requirements and have achieved at least an average "C" over all the assessment. Note this is a failing grade.

## Referencing

There are many different styles of referencing and the Faculty of Commerce & Administration at VUW has decided to make APA (American Psychological Association) referencing style the common standard across the Faculty. The Commerce and Central Libraries hold the APA Style Guide. You can also access the information from the *2009 Tourism Courses Style Guide* and the online VUW library site (<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/library/resources/virtualref.shtml#style>).

## Student Contact Details

Please ensure you have your current contact details correctly recorded, including e-mail and daytime phone numbers. You can check and amend your details by going to the students section of the VUW website at <http://studentvuw.vuw.ac.nz/>. Click on the student records link, enter your student ID and PIN. Finally click on the appropriate link to update your records.

## Email Contact

Students wishing to contact staff by email should adhere to the following instructions: Include the **Course Code**, your **Name**, your **Student ID** and the **Topic** in the subject area of the email, eg

TOUR320\_Smith\_Pauline\_3000223344\_Ass1 Query

All students must use their VUW SCS email account and ID. Otherwise, email will be classified as Spam and will be dumped without being read. All emails with attachments will be dumped, unless requested by staff.

**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>

**AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcademic/Publications.aspx)

**Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices**

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

**Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/mentoring/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/)