

Boston University Madrid Internship Program Academic Internship Program

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Course Description:

The internship program of Boston University in Madrid is divided into two sections.

a) The internship, which is completed by working at the company's offices.

b) The academic portion, in which the student completes a thoroughly researched, academic essay. This section of the course is an integral part of the final grade and the credits the students will ultimately receive; both components must be done conjunctively.

This course aims to provide students with a much broader vision of the culture and philosophy of a Spanish work environment.

Throughout this class students will complete a final research project, create a presentation on the company in which they were interning, read articles and organize debates regarding the cultural differences and perspective in the business world.

Emphasis will be placed on using the appropriate vocabulary and writing style seen in professional reports and presentations, this style also pertains to reports on cultural aspects students have encountered throughout the semester. The content of the dossier includes concepts that will be studied. It is not necessary to possess prior technical knowledge. However, an advanced level of Spanish is imperative.

It is indispensable that students have read and prepared the necessary texts and homework before they are reviewed in class. The course is based on comments and debate regarding the texts and other materials. Therefore, students are encouraged to actively participate and rationally express their ideas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will raise his or her level of communicative competence in the business world and improve their Spanish language and composition skills.
2. To fully appreciate the cultural differences between Spain and the United States; and to be more aware of the importance of these differences in order to better communicate.
3. To reach a better understanding of the role that Spanish businesses play in the global economy.
4. To have a better understanding of what it means to be bilingual and bicultural.
5. To complete a final research program that shows a better understanding of 21st century Spain from a range of perspectives including economic, political, social, and cultural.

GRADING

Assigned reading, attendance, participation	15%
Presentation and self-assessment essay	25%
Supervisor's evaluation	20%
Final Project	40%

ATTENDANCE

Students have to be prepared to attend class and participate in debates. Boston University's academic regulations establish that attendance is obligatory. We will not consider absence due to travel, family and friend visits, and trips not organized by BU legitimate excuses.

PRESENTATIONS

Towards the end of the course and once the student has a better understanding of his or her responsibilities within his organization, the student will be required to give a seven-minute oral presentation. The presentation should be informative. It should not be a personal opinion of the internship but a complete, detailed analysis of the business or organization in which the student is interning. A detailed self analysis should be submitted by e-mail seven days after the presentation.

FINAL PROJECT

Towards the end of the course, each student will turn in a final project. This project must be 6 to 8 pages in length and expand on a topic that caught the student attention within the internship or professional sector. An issue within the economic world that profoundly interests the student for personal reasons could also be chosen. The paper must be well-written and properly edited.

The topic of the final paper will be selected at the beginning of the semester in consultation with the academic director of the internships. This is especially important during the summer session, due to the shortened time frame. Upon deciding the final topic, students will begin to look for relevant information and sources as this will assist them in their work each week. The objective is to successfully complete a final project that is the result of serious and rigorous academic inquiry.

All written work, including the outlines, presentations and final reports will be typed, double-spaced, written in the font "New Times Roman", size 12, numbered and stapled.

OBLIGATORY TEXTS

Book of photocopies

Personally selected articles in order to prepare presentations or the final projects will be selected from the following databases.

<http://www.emprendedores.es>

<http://www.expansion.com>

<http://www.cincodías.com>

<http://www.negocios.com>

<http://www.eleconomista.es>

<http://www.elpaís.es>

<http://www.elmundo.es>

<http://www.lavanguardia.es>

<http://www.nytimes.com>

<http://www.ft.com>

<http://www.economist.com>

PROVISIONARY AGENDA OF THEMES AND WORK

All classes will meet at the Instituto Internacional.

WEEK 1: Introduction of the material: the labor market in Spain.

	Hour	Topic
Wednesday May 27th	5:00	The labor market in Spain I (Articles 1-8)
Thursday May 28th	6:00	Cultural differences in the workplace I

WEEK 2: The Spanish company and cultural differences II.

Tuesday June 2	7:00	The brand Madeinspain/differences II Beginning research and finding sources
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WEEK 3: The labor market in the next years in the EU.

Tuesday June 9	7:00	Hand-in outline and sources: questions
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WEEK 4: Turn in 3-4 pages of the rough draft of the final project (submit via e-mail)

Tuesday June 16	7.00 (optional)	(Questions and material for the rough draft)
Wednesday June 17	Last day to submit 3-4 page rough draft by e-mail	

WEEK 5: Internship: Oral Presentations

Monday: June 22	7.00
Tuesday: June 23	7.00
Wednesday: June 24	7.00

WEEK 6: Internship:

Monday and Tuesday, the 29th and 30th of June, and Wednesday the 1st of July
Submit via e-mail a critical analysis of the workplace in Spain.

WEEK 7: Submit final project

Tuesday, July 7th: LAST DAY TO TURN IN FINAL PROJECT (7 P.M)

Students are required to submit two copies of the work: a hard-copy on July 7th and also an electronic version the same day

IMPORTANT: Students whose outlines, rough drafts, self-assessments and final reports are e-mailed after the set time and date will have their final grade lowered by a letter grade at the end of the course. The due dates should be viewed by the students as a professional deadline to submit their report. Remember that in a professional atmosphere there are no excuses; therefore, **BE PROFESSIONAL AND SUBMIT EVERYTHING ON TIME OR EVEN A DAY EARLY.**