Auckland Study Abroad Internship Program Syllabus

The Boston University Study Abroad Internship Program in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand, is designed to provide an immersive, practical, and academic experience for students. This is achieved through targeted internship placements. Success is evaluated through workplace participation and the completion of assignments designed to reflect the program’s Learning Outcomes, which are closely aligned with those of SS-315, our parallel academic course that studies the history, society, and politics of Aotearoa New Zealand. The primary focus of the Internship Program is to support students in developing professional skills that are relevant to their field of study. We partner with local organizations, which provide a collaborative learning environment that enables the exchange of knowledge and cultural values.

Internship Program Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the forces that have shaped and continue to influence Aotearoa New Zealand, both Māori and Pākehā (pre-colonial through post-colonial eras); and show an understanding of how this history continues to shape the modern society, politics, and culture of Aotearoa New Zealand and within the internship organization.
2. Develop and practice critical and analytical ways of thinking as a part of everyday internship work practices in order to gain a deeper understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand. Integrate concepts and themes from SS-315 within assignments to demonstrate insight into events local and elsewhere in the world, including the student’s home country.
3. To understand and be able to demonstrate the cultural values, social norms, motivations, and patterns of behavior that operate in a New Zealand workplace and to understand the role that work itself plays in the wider context of society in Aotearoa New Zealand.
4. Develop an awareness of and be able to describe how one’s own cultural values and assumptions compare with those of New Zealanders.

Hour Requirements:
The internship will take place during the semester and is treated just like another class. The internship period is roughly 12 weeks long and typically has a 2 week break in the middle to allow for students to catch up on their assignments and travel. That break is negotiated with all supervisors.

Depending on the semester, or time of year that the internship takes place, there are different hour requirements.

**Semester 1 – March-June** – 250-300 hours, or about 25-30 hours per week
**Semester 2 – August-October** – 200-250 hours, or about 20-25 hours per week.

Internship Program Classes:
1. **Cultural Comparisons: NZ and USA.** This class assists the student to play the role of a cultural detective during their time in Aotearoa New Zealand. Topics include a discussion of cultural values and symbols, social norms, language, and customs; and also an examination of the pitfalls of cultural appropriation, stereotypes, and ethnocentrism. We also explore the notion of the ‘cultural iceberg’ – that is, how deep culture is hidden from a superficial gaze and needs to be carefully investigated. As part of this class we workshop a work-related or social situation that has arisen since the student arrived in Aotearoa New Zealand, in which a misunderstanding due to cultural difference has occurred. This helps the student to gain a deeper understanding of their internship workplace and provides a way of approaching the Internship Program assignments.
2. **Internship Program Coursework Guidelines.** This class discusses all of the requirements for the Internship Program assignments, and supports the student in succeeding academically.

**Internship Program Assignments:**

1. **Job Description & Goal Setting 10%.** An outline of the student’s internship organization and their role and projects, followed by an outline of the goals that the student wishes to achieve by the completion of their placement.

2. **Oral Presentation 10%.** A short individual presentation, in which the student provides information about their internship placement, their goals, and strategies for achieving them.

3. **Research Paper 25%.** This is a formal 3,000 word academic paper. The student is required to research and write either on their internship organization, or on a related topic approved by the internship supervisor and Boston University Study Abroad academic staff.

4. **Reflective Journals 20%.** The student is required to observe, describe, analyse, and discuss various aspects of their work experiences as well as examining cultural observations gleaned whilst in the workplace.

5. **Analysis & Conclusions 10%.** This is a reflection on the goals set at the beginning of the student’s internship placement: were they achieved, or not? Did the student’s strategies for achieving the goals work, or not? How have these experiences impacted the student’s future career and academic pathways?

6. **Internship Supervisor's Evaluation 25%.** This feedback is provided by the student’s on-site workplace supervisor, who awards a grade based on the student’s performance in their role within the internship organization.

*Academic, practical, and pastoral support and advice from Boston University Study Abroad staff is available to the student throughout the Internship Program.*