BU Study Abroad Padua Internship Course

Syllabus

Instructor: Mariachiara Berizzi
Instructor mail: berizzi@bu.edu
Office hour:
Class appointments:
Course Value: 4 credits

Internship Areas:  CAS AH 505 Internship in Arts and Arts Administration
                    CAS LX451/452 Internship in Linguistics Research
                    CAS PO405/IR455 Internship in International Organizations and NGOs
                    CAS PO401/IR 451 Internship in Politics/International Relations
                    SHA HF390 Field Placement in Hospitality Administration

The course begins with a Core Phase of a two-week course and continues with bi-weekly sessions through the entire Internship Phase of 12 weeks.

Week 1 – Week 2 (Core Phase)

During the first part of the program, students will take the required core course to prepare for their internships. The course meets four days a week, three hours a day, plus site visits.

Week 3 – Week 14 (Internship Phase)

Students participate in internships with organizations in the greater Padua area. Students intern for about 20 hours per week, Monday-Friday. During the internship phase students meet with the Internship course professor for a bi-weekly class session.

Internship placements

Internship placements are the experiential component of the Internship Course. Students must know that placements are contingent upon the student’s past experience, professional interests, and available opportunities in any given semester; flexibility is essential.
Course Description

The internship course is outlined to introduce the student to the main cultural, historical, political and economic issues regarding Italy in general, and the Italian job market with a special focus on the five areas of internship specializations: Arts and Arts Administration, Linguistics Research, International Organizations and NGOs, Politics/International Relations, Hospitality Administration. A double perspective will be constantly assumed discussing the main internship-related topics on both national and regional or local level. Special attention will be given to the cultural, social and economic peculiarities of the greater Padua area and the Veneto region. Main topics will be discussed also in comparison with the US system.

All areas of specializations will be dealt with in themed lessons, case studies and group discussions on interdisciplinary topics, so as to create connections and encourage a global view of the internship experience.

The course will also help students to learn about the challenges of their internship in the host country-specific environment, providing a general overview on topics related to the improvement of intercultural competence, skills and abilities.

The student will be guided to reflect on her/his personal expectations towards the internship experience, set personal objectives and goals, encourage to actively participate in debates, discuss and express personal reflections, share achievements and reach set course goals.

The course includes 2 guest speakers and 2 visits to businesses or institutions relevant for the internship experience.

Learning outcomes

- Gain an understanding of workplace dynamics, professional expectations, and the influence of culture on both.
- Build proficiency in a range of business or industry skills appropriate to the field of the internship placement, including professional and inter-cultural communication through written, verbal, and non-verbal means.
- Refine and clarify professional and career goals through critical analysis of the internship experience or research project.

Objectives

- Provide the wealth of knowledge and skills needed to get the best out of the internship experience
- Deepen the knowledge of some crucial cultural and social aspects of Italy combining academic with professional experience
- Encourage to build a network of social and professional relationship
- Improve personal awareness in relation to future career, professional and learning choices
GRADING CRITERIA

Attendance and Participation: 15%
2 written reports on site-visits: 20% (10% each)
Class presentation 15%
Bi-Weekly Log 10%
Individual presentation on topic related to final project 15%
Final project paper 25%

Written reports on site-visits
2 pages each, Times New Roman 12, double spaced, margins 2cm

Final project paper
15 pages (cover, index and bibliography excluded), Times New Roman 12, double spaced, margins 2cm,

E-PORTFOLIO
Students are required to post their works and assignments for this course on the relevant pages of their BU e-portfolio.

CREDIT ASSIGNMENT
The main material in the course consists of handouts and articles and assessments will include short papers, presentations, bi-weekly writing assignments and a final project paper, all of which will require at least 20 hours per week from a student.

POLICY

Attendance
Boston University Padua students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trips required for the class. Students should note that attendance will be taken into account by faculty when determining final grades. Students absent from class for medical reasons need to provide a local doctor’s note. Please notice that weekend trips and family visits are not acceptable reasons for either lateness or absence.

Plagiarism
Simply stated, plagiarism is taking another’s work and presenting it as you own. Dictionary definitions of plagiarism frequently include terms such as ‘theft’ or ‘steal’. Plagiarism is, in fact, intellectual theft. It is one of the most serious forms of academic misconduct. Plagiarism committed by a student will certainly result in course failure and may result in suspension or dismissal. For more details please see Boston University’s Code of Student Responsibilities: http://www.bu.edu/lifebook/universitypolicies/policiescode.html

Religious Holidays
Boston University’s Office of the University Registrar states: ‘The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given
ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.’ See Chapter 151C of the General Laws, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Disability Accommodations
If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 617-353- 3658 to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests. For more information, please visit: http://www.bu.edu/disability

CORE PHASE DETAILS

Lesson 1
Course presentation, explanation of course material and grading criteria.
“Padua: the shape of a city”
Padua and the greater Padua area, urban morphology and urban dynamics.

Lesson 2
“Post-war Italy and industrial development”
An overview of the historical development of the Italian industry and market from post-war Italy to nowadays
“The labor market in Italy and in the US”
Institutions, trade unions, types of companies, job contracts and policies, labor rights and behavior.

Lesson 3
Guest Speaker 1 (labor laws, layoff, maternity, labor redundancy, labor market dynamism)
“The North East of Italy: mapping the identity of a territory”
Relevant dynamics and characteristics of the North East of Italy through its economic, social and cultural aspects.

Lesson 4
“People move: multicultural diversity, international youth mobility and migration”
NPOs, NGOs and cooperatives in Italy and Padua: interlocutors and areas of intervention. Focus on Migration, historical background and new cultural issues.
Visit to business or institution relevant for the internship experience.

Lesson 5
PART 1 “Intercultural challenges in your internship experience”
Interacting with your host country culture: what is culture shock? developing skills to help you adjust to life and work in your host country.
PART 2 “Languages of Italy and the job market: notes from a linguistic landscape”.
Linguistic diversity in Italy. Languages and work: varieties and registers.
Lesson 6
“The Veneto region: identifying destinations, attractions, itineraries”
An overview of main tourist areas and cultural heritage sites of Veneto.

“Exploring Padova: 3 study cases”
- “All the happiness of the Venetian character lies in its waters, (Stendhal, 1817). The thermal baths area of Abano and Montegrotto”
- “The Caffè Pedrocchi experience: when Hospitality meets Art”
- “The PadovaFiere’s exhibition center”

Lesson 7
Visit to business or institution relevant for the internship experience includes Guest Speaker 2.

Lesson 8
Getting ready for your internship experience
The importance of recognizing the impact of cultural diversity on your life. How will your internship determine your future career? Reflections on goals and motivations.
Time management at the workplace. Work schedule, breaks, structuring day at work. Interaction at the workplace. Cultural differences.

INTERNALPHASE DETAILS
During the first week of internship phase, students will meet their placement supervisor and will have a warm-up in their internship placement. Students will meet their professor every two weeks for a 3 hours class session for a total of 6 sessions.

Session 1
Reflections on internship experience in relation to topics of Lesson 5 Part 1 of core phase.
Weekly log discussion

Session 2
Reflections on internship experience in relation to topics of Lesson 5 Part 2 of core phase.
Intercultural lesson Part 1
Weekly log discussion

Students communicate the topic of their final project paper to their professor by Monday, October 24.

Session 3
Students present their final paper topics
Weekly log discussion

Session 4
Students present their final paper topics
Reflections on internship experience on topics of lesson 8 of core phase.
Weekly log discussion

**Session 5**
Students present their final paper topics
Intercultural Lesson Part 2
Weekly log discussion

**Session 6 - Final session**
Course conclusions

Final paper due week of December 13