

FU/BEST Program

Name: Amanda Wichert

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Course title: Intercultural Internship Seminar

Course number: FU-BEST IS1

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 16

ECTS-Credits: 10 (in combination with full-time internship)

U.S. semester credits: 6 (in combination with full-time internship)

Course description

This seminar is designed to complement your FU-BEST Internship. In weekly sessions, you will have the opportunity to develop your career profile and focus on getting the most out of your internship experience. Examine and solidify your expectations and goals for the internship, analyse your individual strengths and weaknesses, and develop new skills and methods to reflect on your internship experience from a personal, professional, and practical perspective.

Through the exploration of your experiences together with your instructor you will take a deeper look at differences and similarities between workplace culture and behavioural expectations in your country of origin and in Germany.

A variety of career-based topics will be covered in the seminar, including “Workplace Communication”, “Networking”, and “Career Roadmap”. This seminar will assist you on the path to career success, help you to determine what comes next, and formulate strategies for the future.

Student profile

Participants of FU-BEST Internship Program

Prerequisites

None

Course Requirements

Attendance of at least 7 Sessions (1 Excused Absence)

Internship Report: 100%

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Course schedule

Sessions	Topics, Readings, etc.
<p>Session 1</p>	<p>Culture: What is it and why does it matter?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovering the relationship between culture and expectations • An introduction to cultural standards in Germany and the US and (un)shared knowledge <p>Background/Further Reading: Livermore, David. 2011. <i>The Cultural Intelligence Difference</i>. New York: AMACOM, pp. 13-23.</p> <p>Ang, S. & L. Van Dyne. 2008. "Conceptualisation of Cultural Intelligence." In <i>Handbook on cultural intelligence: Theory, measurement and applications</i>, by S. Ang & L. Van Dyne (Eds.), Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, pp. 3-15.</p>
<p>Session 2</p>	<p>(Culturally-Specific) Workplace Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding diverse communication styles • Giving effective feedback • Gender & culture -> differences and communication in the workplace (Roadblocks and methods, examining communication bias) <p>Background/Further Reading: Schroll-Machl, Sylvia. 2013. <i>Doing Business with the Germans – Their Perceptions, Our Perceptions</i>. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht GmbH & Co. KG, pp. 169-195.</p>
<p>Session 3</p>	<p>Resilience and Productivity (Abroad)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring factors that influence productivity • Examining resources and strategies for stress management (relevant to working abroad) <p>Background/Further Reading: Cole, N. and Nesbeth, K. 2014. "Why do international assignments fail? The expatriate families speak." In <i>International Studies of Management and Organization</i> 44 (3), pp. 66-79.</p>

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<p>Session 4</p>	<p>Personal Profile & Self-Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining your career map • Building your personal profile toolbox • Marketing your internship (expanding your profile: resume & interview) • Peer review
<p>Session 5</p>	<p>Career Paths: Journaling & Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating and reflecting on progress – tools for self-organization and self-analysis • Using your internship as a guide for the future • Writing an effective internship report
<p>Session 6</p>	<p>Career Orientation: What motivates me?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career anchors as a tool for orientation • Understanding career possibilities and choices • Using the SWOT Analysis as a tool to have the best possible experience <p>Schein, Edgar. 2013. <i>Career Anchors: The Changing Nature of Careers Self Assessment</i>. San Francisco: Wiley, pp. 1-19.</p>
<p>Session 7</p>	<p>German Cultural Values in the Workplace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining personal experiences • Effective and efficient – work-life balance, work satisfaction and managing leisure in Germany • The best of both worlds – balancing effort optimism and risk management <p>Background/Further Reading: Schroll-Machl, Sylvia. 2013. <i>Doing Business with the Germans – Their Perceptions, Our Perceptions</i>. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht GmbH & Co. KG, pp. 137-160.</p>
<p>Session 8</p>	<p>Looking to the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the German job market – and using your internship as a bridge • Cultural differences – exploring open questions • Networking & maintaining new relationships