WWU Münster English Department

Master of Arts British, American and Postcolonial Studies (BAPS)

Work Experience Module - Handout and Information

(Last updated: March 2023)

During the **Work Experience Module**, students gain professional skills and qualifications in academic and non-academic fields. They receive credits for professional skills training or German language courses (for international students) and for work experience. Options include:

- serving as an intern in firms or organisations either at home or abroad (e.g., in museums, publishing houses, the media, theatres, cultural festivals, advertising agencies, consultancies, etc.)
- planning and organising an academic event like a student conference, lecture series, film festival, or art exhibition
- co-organising an academic event and gaining teaching experience by offering tutorials for BA students at the English Department

Internship/Work Experience: To Do

- You are responsible for finding an internship that suits your interests. We will send notices via
 the <u>BAPS Learnweb</u> when they are made known to us, and we are happy to make
 recommendations as well. The English Department website also lists a number of possible
 databases and opportunities in English-speaking countries <u>here</u> (scroll down all the way for a
 list of links).
- Please note that you need to cover **at least 240 hours of work** according to the module description. This is either 6 weeks full-time (at 40 hours a week) or can be pieced together differently, e.g. over the course of a semester with a part-time internship. Please note that we do not recommend piecing together different internships to add up to 240 hours of work unless there are extenuating circumstances (care obligations etc.).
- Please make sure that your prospective internship placement or work experience you already have is in line with the module profile by getting in touch with the BAPS team (baps@uni-muenster.de). Dr. Anna Rapp is responsible for the module and also available for consultation in advance.
- Don't forget to register for the module in QISPOS! Note that you have to register for your class with the Career Service/Language Centre AND the internship/tutorial/(academic) work experience AND the module examination. You are expected to submit your portfolio within the same semester you registered!

Portfolio Guidelines

- Timing:
 - Your portfolio should be submitted as a pdf document at least six weeks before you need the grade to be entered in OISPOS.
 - Please make sure to submit your portfolio during the same semester you registered on OISPOS. The official end of the semester is 31 March/ 30 September.
- Portfolio contents:
 - Your portfolio should include the following:
 - a cover sheet with your contact information and the module information;
 - a table of contents
 - your internship/work experience report of about 2,500 words (see below)
 - the "Eigenständigkeitserklärung" (declaration of academic integrity)
 - a scan of the internship/work experience confirmation which needs to indicate that at least 240 hours of work were completed
- Internship/work experience report contents and structure:
 - Your internship/work experience report is meant
 - to help you develop written communication skills (remember who your audience is):
 - to serve as an archival record of your internship/work experience;

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- to give you the opportunity to reflect on the professional aspects of the internship/work experience and the skills that were learned, perhaps also including what you learned about yourself and how the experience helped you to shape your expectations of a future career;
- to challenge you to reflect on the initial goals of the internship and how they were (or were not) achieved during the internship
- o In keeping with these goals, please structure the report as follows
 - Introduction (including motivation for the position, possibly detailing the application process)
 - Description of Work Environment and Responsibilities (please include information on the company/organisation and describe your role as an intern/employee)
 - Reflection (please include a reflection on the skills that you learned or had expected to learn, but didn't learn during your time in the company/organisation; please also include a reflection on the suitability and applicability of the internship/work experience in relationship to our Master of Arts program)
 - Conclusion (please close with a few words regarding your take-aways, and perhaps whether you would recommend this company/organisation to others in the program for internship/work experience)
 - Bibliography/References (this is not an academic paper, but if you do cite
 e.g. from websites or other sources, please record your sources correctly in a
 bibliography; you may choose your preferred style of citation)
- Please note that we do grade the portfolio and this grade is your module grade for the Work Experience module. The grade will reflect
 - Language/style
 - Structure and clarity of contents
 - Reflection/analysis
- If you would like to see a model report, write an email to the BAPS team, who will provide you with one.