WWU Münster
English Department
Master of Arts National and Transnational Studies (NTS)
Work Experience Module – Handout and Information
(Last updated: July 2022)

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, NGOs, 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 NTS Learnweb 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 here (scroll down all the way for a list of links).
- Please note that you need to cover **at least 150 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 150 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 NTS team
 (MANTS@wwu.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!

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 also note that we prefer that portfolios are submitted within six months of the completion of the internship/work experience. If you are submitting the portfolio later than 12 months after the completion of the internship/work experience, please check with the NTS team and/or Dr. Rapp to make sure that the portfolio will still be accepted.
- 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 150 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;
 - to give you the opportunity to reflect on the professional aspects of the internship/work experience and the skills that were learned;

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- 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)
- For those of you studying according to the exam regulations of 2015 and before:
 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
- o If you study according to the exam regulations of 2020 and later, your grade will be pass or fail. Your portfolio will be assessed based on the following criteria:
 - Language/style
 - Structure and clarity of contents
 - Reflection/analysis
- If you would like to see a model report, write an email to the NTS team, who will provide you with one.