Intercultural Communication 3800 F/G/ Z Working with a Mentor: Internship in Intercultural Communication (Draft 2019-2020)



The workplace is an important space for developing intercultural competencies. Students will negotiate the intercultural transition from school to work and will observe and reflect on the intercultural negotiation that takes place in the workplace. Some of these negotiations include reflecting on the diverse workplace, understanding the structures and language of the workplace and observing the way work is conducted in a global context. In order to reflect on the experience as a whole, students will start the online course before the internship begins and continue when the internship placement is over. Using an ePortfolio framework, students will prepare for the experience by reflecting on their role as a student and the skills they bring into the workplace. The ePortfolio will serve as a site to reflect on negotiation and intercultural communication in the workplace, and to help establish a relationship with a mentor in the workplace. After the internship, students will look to future opportunities by integrating their experiences into a final reflection, report or presentation.

The Academic Internship is an unpaid, credit internship with minimum of 60 hours. The internship will require students to make connections with academic study while undertaking supervised duties in organizations, businesses or community groups with interests related to Intercultural Communication.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the Department. Registration in the third or fourth year of a module in Intercultural Communication, with a minimum modular average of 75%. Approval of, and acceptance into, an internship placement.

Pre-or Corequisite(s): Students must have completed or are completing the required courses and at least 50% of the module.

Extra Information: 0.5 course credit, Pass, or Fail.

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge

understand professional customs and practices; observe the intercultural dynamics of a workplace; understand the influence of cultures on workplace values and behaviours

Skills

adapt the ability to gather, organize, review, evaluate and interpret project information and data to issues and tasks experienced; work with diversity/ diverse populations; consider decision making contexts and their complexity; communicate information, arguments, and analyses accurately, reliably, and with the appropriate intercultural parameters, orally and in writing working effectively in teams and with a leader; compare the merits of alternate solutions or creative options using critical thinking and analytical skills; develop and nurture a mentor relationship, and other workplace relationships, in order to expand knowledge boundaries of workplace culture and develop intercultural encounters

Attitudes

behave consistently with academic integrity, ethical principles of the workplace and social responsibility; apply cultural humility; function successfully within a workplace environment and understand the difference between school and work cultures; develop a cosmopolitan perspective in order to bring out the potential diversity of the global workplace Please refer to the American Association of Colleges and Universities Rubric on Intercultural Communication Competence for further details.

Evaluation

to pass a student must

i. maintain a suitable level of performance in the position as verified by the internship employer through a mid-term and end of term evaluation
ii. submit a double-spaced four-page mid-term reflection or equivalent (1000 words, references not required)

iii. submit a double-spaced 10 to 12-page final reflection or equivalent (3000 words, plus references) at the end of the internship demonstrating how the experience gained through the internship relates to his/her coursework and program of study

Course Professor: Dr. Angela Borchert (borchert at uwo.ca) (German, Comparative Literature and Culture, Intercultural Communications)

Materials:

All readings, and media for the course are available through OWL Sakai.

Academic Policies:

For the academic policies for undergraduate courses in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, please consult the following link: <u>https://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html</u>