



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Social Sciences

Behavioural scientists at your service!

During the autumn semester, students on the Behavioural Sciences programme will be doing their internships. The internship is an opportunity for students nearing the end of their training to develop relevant skills for the labour market and not least to get a chance to convert the theories and methods of behavioural science into practice.

For those of you who wish to take on one or several intern(s), this means getting an employee with a broad expertise in behavioural sciences and a specialisation in one of the following fields: education, psychology or sociology. Within the programme, students can combine courses in several different areas such as personality and developmental psychology, social interaction, motivation and stress, globalisation, welfare and development issues, organisational and leadership development, communication and marketing, learning and skills development, health and illness, interview techniques, recruitment, criminology and deviant behaviours, diversity, etc.

The programme also promotes the development of the student's independence, capacity for teamwork, organisational ability and project management skills as well as giving the student tools for investigation and evaluation.

What do the students bring with them?

The students who are ready to go on internships have studied at least 90 credits (equivalent to at least one and a half years of full-time study) of which 60 credits in their main subject. Behavioural scientists possess excellent skills for working in a large number of fields, such as human resources, recruitment, organisational development, career and skills development, rehabilitation, treatment of offenders, health issues, evaluation, treatment and communication and information issues. Investigative work and administration are also typical tasks for behavioural scientists. The internship can also consist of participation in research and development work.

What is required of the host organisation?

In order to be registered for the internship semester, the student must be able to present an organisation prepared to offer an internship. This is certified by a representative, perhaps a potential supervisor, at the host organisation, who signs a formal agreement to receive the intern and briefly states which main tasks the intern will be expected to carry out. The specific work duties can vary and can be tailored to the wishes of both the intern and the host organisation. It is of course possible to discuss the content of the internship with the internship coordinator.

What the host organisation must be able to offer are work duties that clearly require expertise in behavioural science. There must also be a supervisor for the whole semester who will take specific responsibility for the intern. The internship semester can be spent within the public or private sectors as well as within NGOs in Sweden and abroad.

A personal assignment

In addition to taking part in daily work at the host organization, the intern is to have an internship assignment which must be a coherent task for the student to carry out independently under supervision. The assignment is to have both an academic and a practical perspective, in which the University contributes the academic supervision and the workplace provides supervision of work-related aspects.

Examples of internship assignments are the production of a document or a report by the intern, or the development and/or execution of a training session/lecture. The internship can also consist of learning about various parts of the organisation in question or implementing a project together with other professional categories. The assignment is to be summarised in an internship report to be presented to the host organisation as well as at an internship seminar on the course. The internship report constitutes the examination for the course, together with a number of internet seminars in which the student takes part during the internship.

Supervision

The supervisor is to provide an introduction to the host organisation, be available to support the intern in his/her work and help to solve various types of problems that the intern may face during the course of the internship. The supervisor is also to provide direction and instructions on various work duties so that the intern is in a position to carry out these duties independently, whereupon the supervisor also follows up on the work. Supervision is to stimulate the intern to find possible solutions autonomously but also to provide an opportunity to ask for advice if problems occur. It is important that the supervisor is available to discuss the work with the intern and that the intern is able to follow up on his or her “own” areas/matters by taking part in daily activities in various ways. Besides the ongoing day-to-day contact, supervision should also include at least a couple of pre-scheduled appraisals during the internship period (for example at the start, halfway through and at the end). These appraisals can be run in a similar way to the staff appraisals that are often used in working life; they are to provide both the intern and the supervisor with an opportunity to discuss the internship, the host organisation and the work that is being carried out.

We are here for you!

Here at the Behavioural Sciences Programme, we are always available to support you as a host organisation for our interns, if you have questions or comments on the content or practical form of the internship. Our hope and our ambition is that you will feel you got more out of hosting an intern than you put in and that the time spent on the internship paid off handsomely in various ways!

If you have questions about the internship or wish to register that you have an internship place available for a behavioural scientist, please do not hesitate to contact the course director and internship coordinator Ingela Steij Stålbrand on +46 72 72 73 031 or Ingela.Stej_Stalbrand@psy.lu.se