Internship and Seminar
ITRN 3000 (4 credits / 120 hours)

SIT Study Abroad:
India: Public Health and Human Development

Description
This seminar and internship consists of a seminar and a five week internship with a local community organization, research organization, public health-related business, or international NGO. The aim of an internship is to enable students to gain valuable work experience and enhance their skills in an international work environment.

SIT will use its extensive network in India to facilitate placement with an organization, and work with each student to secure the internship placement. Drawing on the wide network of community organizations, activists, and academics that sustain the academic program and connect to the work and life of the host community, SIT internships prioritize collaborative engagement/relationships with host communities and inclusive internship opportunities to better match student’s interests with the internship placement.

The internship seminar’s reflection and assessment meetings are held with the academic director or internship coordinator before and during the internship period to review the progress of the internship and learning associated with the internship experience. The internship seminar culminates in an internship paper in which students process their learning experience on the job, analyze an issue important to the organization, and/or design a socially responsible solution to a problem identified by the organization. The paper should also document a comprehensive schedule and the intercultural communication and other skills and knowledge acquired through the experience. A focus will be on linking internship learning with the program’s critical global issue focus and overall program theme of public health in India.

This internship provides students the opportunity to put into practice the theoretical material, methodologies, language abilities, and intercultural skills developed during previous coursework in public health and in the India: Public Health and Human Development Seminar. Our experiential education model helps students develop self-confidence, deeper understanding of the challenges of putting theory into practice, as well as analytical clarity and cross-cultural sensitivity.

Learning Outcomes
The Seminar and Internship course comprises of 120 hours over four weeks at your internship site which includes 15 hours of seminar before, during and after the internship. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

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• Demonstrate awareness of the ethics of engaging in a public health internship in the context of India;
• Describe, analyze, and synthesize their learning experience in the internship in the form of an internship paper;
• Articulate the output of the internship experience in the form of an oral presentation;
• Show understanding of India’s diverse cultural identities, social justice and community concerns;
• Assess the challenges of social justice and community health concerns in the context of India;
• Gain meaningful and practical work experience in their chosen field.

Language of Instruction
This course is taught in English and students will be exposed to concepts and vocabulary related to the internship through a range of venues prior to the start of the internship.

Course Requirements

Course Schedule

Module I: Making the Most of Your Internship (Weeks 1 & 2 – prior to the Internship)
During this module students will prepare for the internship and the writing of the internship paper, in meetings with the academic director, students’ will reflect on the internship opportunities.

Additional seminar content will include:
1. Positionality and Internship Ethics/Awareness
   a. Stereotypes and preconceptions about India
   b. Students’ lens – how have you been taught to understand health work as a practice and public health work in international contexts?
   c. What are my motivations?
2. Introduction to Work Culture in India; differences from the US
3. Introduction to Internship – visit internship site and develop understanding of context and position in field/country
4. Ethics of Public Health Internships in India
   This is an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the ethics of engaging in a public health internship in international contexts in general and in India in particular.

As a matter of policy, we will also discuss SIT’s commitment to ethical engagement and reciprocity. The internship experience must reflect SIT’s ethics policy and commitment to the values of reciprocity. The student intern should also abide by the policy and regulations of the host institution including dress, punctuality, and employee behavior. Violations of SIT’s code of conduct or employee conduct at the host institution will result in an immediate termination of the internship and can lead to further disciplinary sanctions by SIT.

Once internship placements are confirmed, the students, together with the academic director will review objectives for the internship and discuss expectations, learning agreements, timeframes and other logistics, structural components of the final internship paper, content, layout, and general guidelines. The Internship Learning Agreement is a graded component of the India: Public Health and Human Development Seminar and serves as a foundation of the final internship paper.

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Required reading:

Module II: The Internship Experience: Review and Reflection (Weeks 3-6)
During the seven weeks of the seminar students will focus on the review and reflection process of the internship experience. Students will keep an internship journal responding to the questions/issues listed below. Journaling should be done daily, keeping in mind the learning objectives of the internship. Two progress reports on their learning experience should be submitted.

Week 3 – First week at Internship site
Cultural observations: How is the work environment different from what you are used to? What are you learning about working collaboratively in the internship context? How do you find yourself reacting to and adjusting to internship site practices that are different from what you are accustomed to? How does it feel to be in this environment? First Progress Report submitted.

Week 4 – Second week at Internship site
Theory and Practice: Digging Deeper: How does the work of your internship site connect to the community issues and NGO activities in India? How has the experience at your internship challenged or affirmed the arguments in a reading or lecture from the India: Public Health and Intercultural Communication Seminar?

Week 5 – Third week at Internship site
Skills and Experience: What insights into this field have you gained through your internship? What skills are most valuable for this work and what opportunities have you had to improve yours in this area? What has challenged you and how are you handling those challenges? How do you see this experience preparing you for future opportunities? Second Progress Report submitted.

Week 6 – Fourth week at Internship site
Learning Goals: How much progress have you made toward your learning goals? What experiences or activities have contributed to your ability to meet them? Are you learning something important you didn’t anticipate and would like to add to your Learning Goals at this time?

Required Readings:
Articles specific to the issues addressed by the internship will be assigned once internship placement is determined.


Module III: Processing and Maximizing the Internship Experience (Week 7)
This module focuses on ways of processing and articulating the internship as well as equipping students with practical tips and strategies for making the most of the experience personally, academically, and professionally.

Week 7 – Fifth week at Internship site
Talking About the Internship Experience
This session allows students to reflect on the internship experience and associated learning as part of a process that is safe and supportive. The internship may have been a different experience than expected, may challenge the student’s expectations of working in a diverse and challenging environment, and may change the student’s perspective of life projects or professional goals. The module discusses ways of acknowledging both the successes and failures of the internship, of completing tasks, handing over projects to and sharing insights with colleagues on the job, and setting realistic goals for the future.

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Additional seminar content will include:

1. Processing the End of the Internship Experience
2. Closure with Colleagues and Supervisors
3. Articulating the Experience and Setting Plans for the Future

This final portion occurs in the final days of the program, as students plan their next steps, academically and professionally. Students discuss fears and strategies for building on this experience in other work settings, opportunities for professional growth, and how to make optimal use of the internship experience.

4. How to Include Your Internship on Your Résumé
5. Next Steps

**Required Readings:**
*Articles to be assigned upon arrival in India once internship placement is determined.*

**Recommended Readings:**

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**
At the end of the internship period, students are expected to present their work to the group. Assessment of both written work and the oral presentation is based on quality, academic scholarship, and adherence to the highest ethical standards.

**Description of Assignments**

**Internship Learning Agreement**
The Internship Learning Agreement is developed by students to establish key learning goals and themes in advance of the internship. The academic director or internship coordinator will work with students to prepare the learning agreement.

**Work Journal**
Students are expected to keep a work journal. This can be an online journal in which they document their everyday internship experience and reflect on their professional achievements in the internship. The work journal is assessed in the middle and at the end of the program.

**Discussion and Reflection Sessions**
Discussion and reflection sessions take place on a weekly basis. Students are expected to share their personal experience in the internship and reflect on the professional learning process. These discussion and reflection sessions are key elements in the process of the learning experience and the student’s professional achievements within the host organization.

**Progress Reports**
The progress report should document the progress of the student's professional and personal learning on the job. Students document aspects of the challenges they face and how they try to deal with those challenges. Students submit two progress reports in the course of their internship experience, after weeks one and three of the internship.
Mentor Evaluation
This evaluation by the academic director or internship supervisor, in conjunction with an on-site internship supervisor at the internship site, assesses the student’s internship experience, overall professional achievements, and self-growth. The Internship Learning Agreement forms a foundation on which to evaluate internship performance, including adaptability to evolving internship circumstances.

Oral Presentation
In the presentation, you should provide a succinct and clear description of the internship experience, a brief history of the organization where you interned, and the work undertaken. You should demonstrate effective management of the discussion with the audience and attend to the aesthetic elements of the delivery.

Final Paper: Public Health Internship and Community Reflection Paper
Students are expected to submit a final paper at the end of their internship experience. The final paper should include a title, list of acknowledgments, and an abstract. The paper should also have an introduction which summarizes the work and history of the organization and incorporates a number of references, detailed description of the work accomplished, and strong and innovative aspects of the organization. The paper should be well written, well organized, and aesthetically pleasing. This paper, submitted with the thematic seminar reflection paper at the end of the program, constitutes the culmination of written work for the public health internship program.

Assessment of the Internship

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<tr>
<td>Work Journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion and Reflection Sessions</td>
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<td>2 Progress Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mentor Evaluation</td>
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<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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Grading Scale

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<td>A-</td>
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Expectations and Policies
Show up prepared, on time, and appropriately dressed for your internship. Comply with organization rules.

Have work journal and progress report assignments completed on schedule and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.

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Ask questions when in the field/office. Engage yourself in everyday life of the organization and initiate interaction.

Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).

Respect differences of opinion (those of your internship supervisor and colleagues, classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with onsite visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: For information about and support from Disability Services (DS) to facilitate an accessible educational experience, please contact disabilityservices@sit.edu or +1-802-258-3390. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services can be found on the DS website at: http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices.