

Internship & Seminar

ITRN 3000 (4 credits / 120 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Senegal: Hip-hop, African Diaspora and Decolonial Futures

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

This course consists of a four-week internship with a local community or youth organization, artist, musician, filmmaker, research organization, business, or international NGO. The aim of an internship is to enable students to gain valuable internship experience and enhance their skills in an international internship environment.

SIT will use its extensive network to place students in organizations working on social change, technology innovation and diffusion, emerging business start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises in a variety of fields in Senegal. In addition, students may petition SIT for approval of internship placements that they find on their own initiative. However, in all cases, the organization and the student's internship placement must be approved by SIT's academic director, and SIT will maintain oversight over internship placement in line with SIT academic policies, student health and security guidelines. Ultimately, each student takes responsibility for making optimal use of resources available at the organization and to be proactive in engaging with local experts to achieve their internship objectives. Weekly two-hour reflection and assessment classes are held with the academic director or internship coordinator to review the progress of the internship and learning associated with the internship experience.

The students complete an internship and submit a focus project paper in which they process their learning experience on the internship, analyze an issue important to the organization, and/or design a socially responsible solution to a problem identified by the organization. Approved in advance by the academic director, SIT's Local Review Board (for ethical clearance purposes), and the internship supervisor, the internship focus project may involve interviews and other data collection methods relevant to achieving internship learning goals. The paper and final presentation reveal how those goals are linked to the theme of Hip-hop, African Diaspora and Decolonial Futures. The paper should also document a comprehensive schedule and the specific skills and knowledge acquired through the experience. Rubrics for the focus project paper and presentation will be shared with students.

Learning Outcomes

The internship course comprises of 120 hours, equal to 4 academic credits.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of how Senegalese cultural norms and practices shape the work place environment and outcomes;
- Articulate the ways in which organizations attempt to negotiate tensions between Western and local cultural norms and practices;
- Assess and articulate the benefits, challenges and obstacles that the internship organization encounters in their work;
- Describe, analyze, and synthesize their learning experience in the internship in the form of an internship paper and oral presentation; and
- Gain meaningful and practical work experience in their chosen field.

Language of Instruction

Students should expect that French will likely be the main language spoken in most work and field settings of the internship. English may be spoken in some organizations and English/French translation may be available only in informal ways. The pre-internship part of the course, Research Methods and Ethics, prepares students by introducing them to the work norms, practices and ethics in the Senegalese context, and is taught in English by the academic director, assisted by local experts. Further, pre-internship preparations include 3 credit French language course or 3 credit Wolof course, 3 credit African Urban Hip-hop and Decolonial Futures seminar and a 3 credit Rethinking Africa and the African Diaspora course. These four courses combined equip students with knowledge and skills for successfully completing an internship in Senegal and introduce students to the broader context, and intersection of hip-hop, urban cultures and decolonial futures in Senegal.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Module I: Making the Most of Your Internship

Students have regular meetings with the academic director to prepare them for the internship and writing the internship paper, reflect on the internship experience and learn how to use their experience for future professional growth. Complementary readings are assigned by the academic director.

Session 1: Setting the Stage

This session reviews objectives of the internship. Students meet with the academic director, following confirmation of their internship placement, and discuss expectations, timeframes and other logistics, reflection sessions, journaling and structural components of the final internship paper, content, layout, and general guidelines.

Sessions 2 & 3: The Internship Experience: Review and Critical Reflection

At these sessions the academic director or other designee facilitates discussions through which students review and critically reflect upon their internship experience. Assigned relevant readings, weekly learning objectives, notes from the internship journal, and student written progress reports on their learning experience guide the discussions. The academic director will assign the relevant readings.

Session 4: Talking about the Internship Experience

This session allows students to reflect on the internship experience and begin to process the learning that occurred in a safe and supportive context. The session 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.

Session 5: Next Steps and How to Include Your Internship on Your Résumé

This final session occurs in the final weeks of the program, as part of re-entry discussions. Students discuss fears and strategies for successful re-entry into their home setting, opportunities for professional growth, and how to make optimal use of the internship experience. They will discuss ways to describe the experience gained and skills learned in their internship in cover letters, résumés and how to use this experience for future professional growth.

Suggested reading:

Switzer, Frederick and King, Mary (2013) *The Successful Internship: Personal, Professional and Civic development in Experiential Learning (4th Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole (chapter 12)

THE FINAL PAPER

The final paper shall consist of the following four sections:

- Title, list of acknowledgements and abstract
- Introduction
- Description of the host institution
- Description of tasks performed on the job
- Description of a major output of the internship experience
- Personal assessment of job performance
- Summary and conclusions

GUIDELINES FOR THE FINAL PAPER

Expectations for each section of the final paper are outlined below. These, however, are guidelines and may be adapted to the specificities of your internship.

Description of host institution: a brief description (one page) of the host institution for the internship. This should include the nature of the services offered and a profile of the customers who use them. The student may also provide brochures or collateral material that further describes the institution.

Description of tasks performed: this should be written in third person as if the student, acting as a manager, were writing it for a new employee/associate. It should be written in outline form, except for the job summary section. Headings should be used to identify each of the sections. A suggested outline for this description is listed below:

- Job title and place of employment
- Job summary—narrative summary of the activities of the position
- Qualifications—education and experience required and/or desirable
- Working conditions—uniform requirements, physical surroundings, working days, hours, etc.
- Job relationships—who is the mentor and to whom reported
- Specific duties and responsibilities—a list should be provided to indicate all duties performed by the individual in this position

Output of the internship experience: this can be a proposal for a strategic response to an existing problem, a creation of a sustainable plan, a grant proposal, or a research project that responds to the need of an organization. The proposal should also outline the human and financial resources needed for the implementation of the proposed model and measures of its success.

Personal assessment of the experience: in this section provide an assessment of the key learning milestones acquired on the internship experience, the challenges faced, and the possible impact of the experience on the student’s academic and professional career. Included in this section is a reflection on the internship experience, including the output of the internship (mentioned above), as it relates to the program theme in Senegal.

Ethics

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.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Weekly two-hour reflection and assessment meetings are held with the academic director or internship coordinator to review the progress of the internship and learning associated with the internship experience.

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 presentation of insights and learning from the internship experience and academic scholarship and adherence to the highest ethical standards.

Assessment of the Internship

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. Please see rubrics below for guidance on what should be included. Your final Internship Seminar grade will be made up of:

- Internship and Seminar Performance 35%
- Progress Reports 20%
- Internship Presentation 10%
- Internship Paper 35%

Grading Scale

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D
below 64%	F

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Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.