



## MSc Internship Course Guide Wageningen University

- Part A: Information about MSc internships at WU
- Part B: Specific regulations and recommendations ENR

Additional information specific to programmes or chair groups is provided online (via Brightspace and/or webpages).

Education & Student Affairs, January 2021

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# Part A: Information about MSc internships at WU

## 1. General information

This internship guide describes the general internship procedures for all chair groups of Wageningen University. The internship course guide is meant for staff and students. It includes information about the goal of MSc internships, the necessary procedures before starting and during the internship, as well as the assessment procedure.

Wageningen University distinguishes between two categories of internships. In a *research internship*, you work on a single research project that is completed with a research report. In a *professional internship*, you contribute to different projects. You complete the professional internship with a set of deliverables and a context report.

A separate course guide applies to the *Research Practice*. This is a thesis-like project with additional learning outcomes and related assessment criteria that – depending on the programme and individual arrangements made with the Examining Board – may be done instead of an internship.

### Course profile

During an academic internship, you put your acquired knowledge and skills into practice while gaining relevant work experience at an academic level. The aim of the internship is to apply knowledge and perform skills in a potential future work field, for example in a company, a public institution, a research organisation, another university, or a non-governmental organisation.

Language: English  
Credits: 24-39 ECTS\*  
Period: The start date of your internship is determined in consultation with your supervisors

\* Most study programmes require a minimum of 24 credits for the internship; see the Study Handbook for more information. Only in consultation with your study adviser and the internship coordinator (of the chair group) can you extend the length of your internship to a maximum of 39 credits. You should discuss extensions before you start the internship, and an extension of the internship should be accompanied by an extension of the personal learning goals. You should be able to complete the internship report within the internship period; depending on the internship, you should finish your work at the internship provider earlier in order to complete the report.

You should spend 28 hours for each EC (672 hours for a 24 EC internship: 16 weeks of 42 hours, or nearly 17 weeks of 40 hours). We expect you to work a fulltime workweek at the internship provider, according to their working times. The workweek at an internship provider is mostly shorter than 42 hours, which means that you can use the other hours to work on your internship reports. If you work less than fulltime at your internship provider, your internship duration should be extended to get the same number of credits.

### Learning outcomes

After the successful completion of your MSc internship, you are expected to be able to:

1. Evaluate career interests and ambitions in relation to the internship project and reflect on professional ambitions and capabilities.
2. Perform a set of general professional skills at Master's level.
3. Transfer knowledge acquired during MSc education to a professional context and conduct work tasks and projects at the level of an MSc graduate.
4. Evaluate the scientific and societal context and relevance of the internship project tasks.
5. Define personal learning goals, which could include domain-specific skills, and reflect on development therein.

Ad. 5) In addition to the above-mentioned learning outcomes, you should formulate at least two *specific personal learning goals* in consultation and agreement with your Wageningen University supervisor.

For example, you may want to formulate personal or technical skills that you would like to acquire or expand during your internship. Make sure your personal learning goals are formulated properly by making use of the guidelines in Appendix I.

Examples of personal learning goals are:

- I accept and implement feedback.
- I work professionally and can deal with a tight time schedule without getting stressed.
- I am able to express my point of view in a professional setting.

### **Criteria for academic internships**

The internship at the Wageningen University (WU) needs to be an *academic* internship. This means that an internship should have certain characteristics that fit an academic career path. The internship therefore needs to meet the following requirements:

- Your tasks during the internship require academic level of thinking (i.e. the internship needs to include a content driven assignment, such as working on a research project, a policy document, a communication plan, an evaluation report, a design, or education materials).
- Your internship reflects the desired level of a Wageningen graduate (i.e. it needs to be at an appropriately academic level).
- Your supervisor at the host organisation works at an academic level.

## 2. Preparation for the internship

The supervision of your internship is the responsibility of a Wageningen University chair group. Your study programme determines which chair groups are entitled to supervise your internship. Consult the description of your MSc programme in the Study Handbook and contact your study adviser to find out more about the chair group(s) allowed to supervise your internship.

### People involved in your internship

- The *internship coordinator* is the contact person within the chair group. You can find the internship coordinator of each chair group in the online Study Handbook of Wageningen University. The internship coordinator needs to approve your internship contract in advance. They also appoint a supervisor from the chair group (WU supervisor/university mentor) and an examiner.
- The *host supervisor*<sup>1</sup> is your supervisor on behalf of the internship provider. They will guide you through your daily activities and give feedback on your performance. Preferably, your host supervisor is a university graduate. If not, they should at least work at an academic level. Your internship organisation determines who your internship supervisor is. Your host supervisor will have an advisory role in the assessment of your internship, usually regarding your performance and oral presentation.
- The *WU supervisor* advises and supports you before the start of the internship by supervising the completion of the Learning Agreement (defining specific personal learning goals, etc). You will discuss the progress of your learning process with the WU supervisor during the evaluation moments and can contact your WU supervisor for advice or in case of difficulties. Your WU supervisor also supports you at the end of the internship by giving you feedback on the final internship report. Finally, the WU supervisor is involved in the assessment after completion of the internship, as they are first assessor.
- The *examiner* acts as second assessor and is responsible for the final grading of your internship. They will grade separately all assessment items that have not been part of the advice of the host supervisor and determine the final grading in consultation with the WU supervisor.

### How to find an internship

There are differences between chair groups with regard to how internships should be found and arranged. In some chair groups, it is common practice that you find the internship yourself. Other chair groups provide you with internship projects.

In general, you can take the following steps:

- Discuss the planning of your Master's programme, including your internship, with your study adviser. Check, in consultation with your study adviser, which chair groups are allowed to supervise your internship. Ask your study adviser for tips regarding finding appropriate internships.
- You should start searching for an internship at least three to six months in advance, and at least six months in advance if you plan to do your internship abroad. Before first looking for potential internships, ask yourself what you would like to learn during your internship, ask fellow students about their internship experiences, ask lecturers

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<sup>1</sup> In the internship contract, the host supervisor is indicated as 'internship supervisor' and the internship coordinator is indicated as 'university mentor'.

for contacts, read professional journals, search the internet to find names of possible internship providers and check the websites of the chair groups for available internships. The student career services also receive vacancies for internships. On the WU-website, you can find several databases with internship opportunities.

- Check out the procedures for the relevant chair groups for contacting the internship coordinator or checking the information on their website, in portals, etc. Make sure that you know how the relevant chair group arranges internships.

## **Contract, Learning Agreement and Internship Plan**

Before the internship starts, you, the host supervisor and the internship coordinator from the chair group have to agree on the formalities of your internship. These agreements need to be stated in the *Internship Contract*.

In addition, you and your WU supervisor have to make agreements related to your learning process during the internship. These agreements are written down in the *Learning Agreement*.

Finally, you, your host supervisor and your WU supervisor have to make agreements concerning the content of your internship that need to be written down in an *Internship Plan*. Usually, the Internship Plan is attached to the Learning Agreement.

### **Internship Contract**

The WU Internship Contract (see overview of downloads in Appendix IV) is the preferred contract to use for your internship. However, if the internship provider requires you to fill in their own contract, then please use the checklist found in Appendix II to check for tips and potential bottlenecks related to the internship contract. It also includes guidelines for a separate NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement), if applicable.

Use the internship contract to record agreements concerning confidentiality and data management.

A non-WU internship contract requires an extra check with the legal services of the specific science group that the chair group belongs to. You should factor in about two extra weeks for this check. You, the host supervisor and the **internship coordinator of the chair group** need to sign the contract. Issues with contracts can always be checked; you can contact the internship coordinator if you have questions about the contract.

### **Learning Agreement**

The *Learning Agreement* contains the type of the internship, a description of the internship assignment, your personal learning goals, the agreement on supervision, planning, evaluation moments, and (if applicable) risk assessment. You and your WU supervisor must sign the learning agreement.

Students from non-EU countries may face problems with immigration rules if they are planning to do an internship in an EU country other than the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, a tripartite contract is necessary (a requirement of the IND; a tripartite contract is signed by the internship provider, the internship coordinator of the chair group and the student). If a tripartite contract has been arranged and signed, non-European students do not have to apply for a working permit.

In other EU countries, you may need other documents, like a working permit. If so, it could be impossible to do your internship, due to time consuming procedures. You may need a letter from our University stating that you are registered as student at the University and that the internship is a compulsory part of your study programme. If you need additional support,

please contact the internship coordinator. Furthermore, it is advisable to contact the specific Embassy to check which documents are necessary.

### **Internship Plan**

The Internship Plan can be considered as a project proposal for your internship. Within the plan, you need to describe your internship assignment in detail. You should make clear whether your internship is a *Research Internship* (completed with a 'research report') or a *Professional Internship* (completed with a 'context report' and deliverables of projects that have been part of your internship). Ask your supervisor what level of detail is expected for your Internship Plan.

## **Further information on WU travel policy, insurance and grants**

### **Travel policy for students**

Are you planning to travel abroad or, as an international student, are you temporarily travelling back home in the context of your studies at Wageningen University & Research? Find out in good time whether this trip concerns a **risky area** (source: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs). If so, you will have to receive permission. In that case, you should submit a **travel request** together with your internship coordinator.

You will need to complete a form that also functions as a checklist to ensure that you are well-prepared for your trip. This checklist includes precautions – both mandatory and otherwise – such as travelling together with a student who is already familiar with the area, (additional WU) insurance, safety training, registration in Kompas (Foreign Affairs) and recommended vaccinations. You can find the form on the website mentioned below.

For actual information on travel policy WU, check the website:

<https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Current-Students/Travel-policy-for-students.htm>

### **Travel Insurance**

Students participating in internships and/or conducting thesis work abroad as part of their study programme at the University are covered by the collective travel insurance of Wageningen University & Research. You do not need to pay to make use of this collective travel insurance. More information you can find here (heading Collective Travel Insurance):

<https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Current-Students/Insurance.htm>

### **Grants**

There are some possibilities to apply for grants if your thesis, internship or research practice takes place in a foreign country, but most times the chance to receive a grant is small. For information about grants, see the following websites:

- <https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Study-Abroad-and-Exchange-Students/Outgoing-from-Wageningen-University.htm>
- <http://www.beursopener.nl/content/index.asp> (unfortunately in Dutch only)
- <https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/master/Study-grants.htm>
- <https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Current-Students/Travel-Funding.htm>

## **Approval for starting the internship**

Your internship is approved when:

- The internship coordinator approves your internship. This includes checking that your internship is at an appropriate academic level (see the criteria for an academic internship).
- You have an agreed to and signed internship contract.

- You agree to remain registered as an MSc student at Wageningen University for the duration of your internship.

The Learning Agreement is often not signed before the start of the internship, but will be completed during the first two weeks, especially when information from the host supervisor is required.

### **3. During your internship**

#### **Supervision**

During your internship, you will have two supervisors: the host supervisor and the WU supervisor. The host supervisor is your daily supervisor, while the WU supervisor is, in most cases only involved at the start, in the progress evaluation and in the assessment of the internship.

At the start of the internship, you and your supervisor discuss how your internship will contribute to a future career, your personal learning goals for the internship and how you will achieve those goals.

During the internship, your WU supervisor plays a coaching role for you and an advisory role for you and the host supervisor. You are expected to keep your WU supervisor informed of the progress and to ask for advice and feedback. Do not hesitate to contact your WU supervisor if you encounter problems during the internship or you feel that your expectations for your learning have not been met.

In the final stage of the internship, you and your WU supervisor will discuss your reflections on your strengths and weaknesses in relation to your career ambitions and the contribution of your internship experience to the learning outcomes of the programme and your personal learning goals.

#### **Progress evaluation and communication**

For a successful internship, it is important that you discuss progress during your internship with both of your supervisors. In addition to regular meetings with your host supervisor, a progress evaluation meeting needs to be organised with your WU supervisor to discuss your progress and performance so far. In preparation to this meeting, you and your host supervisor complete the Progress Evaluation Form (see Appendix III), you ask for host supervisor for specific feedback and send the form to your WU supervisor.

During the progress evaluation meeting, all aspects of the internship project at that point are discussed (i.e. internship plan, supervision, performance). The principle of two-way feedback applies to the progress evaluation: if you have experienced any shortcomings in your supervision, then this is a good moment to discuss them and make agreements on potential improvements. In case of severe problems regarding your dedication, skills, knowledge or communication, your WU supervisor and the internship examiner, may decide to terminate the internship project. The outcome of the evaluation will be discussed with you and will be registered in OSIRIS afterwards.

The internship assessment form and rubric are used for evaluating your progress and provide a clear picture of what is going well and where improvement is needed. If the desired level of progress has not been achieved as planned, due to reasons beyond your control (e.g. illness, problems in supervision), the planning of the rest of the project may need to be adjusted, and new, feasible end goals defined.

## 4. Internship activities

You may opt for a research driven internship at a research organisation, a more general internship at a government or non-governmental organisation or a commercially-oriented internship in the private sector. Keep in mind that different internships may result in different products and outcomes, but they also have different contractual agreements (think about confidentiality issues and legal issues). In case of issues with contracts, you can contact the internship coordinator, as explained in Chapter 2.

### Project assignment and activities

There is much variety in the assignment and activities of internships. If you have chosen to do a research internship, your assignment and activities will usually be related to one specific research assignment that you should complete during the internship. If you have chosen a professional internship, you will probably contribute to a variety of projects or contribute to a single, larger project. Most important is that you complete the project assignment(s) and activities to the best of your abilities. Development of professional skills and attitude and the relevance of your contribution for the internship provider are core elements in the evaluation of your performance. Additionally, throughout the internship, you should be working on your personal learning goals.

### Oral presentation

During the oral presentation, you present your product to the internship provider. Your WU supervisor will attend the oral presentation if possible, so do not forget to invite them. In some chair groups, it is common that you are requested to present your results to the chair group as well. Discuss in advance what WU supervisor's chair group expects from you.

### Project report

The project report should express the *academic quality* of the internship.

- If the internship consists of several interlinked projects, the product can be a *set of deliverables* plus a *context report*. The set of deliverables should provide an overview of the products created during the different projects, while the context report should contain a description of the assignments, the scientific context of the internship, an overview of the internship activities and a reflection on the products vis-a-vis the list of requirements, the usability for the organisation and academic relevance (see the Learning Agreement).
- In case of a research driven internship, the report can be a *research report*. The research report addresses (at minimum) the description of the research assignment, the scientific context of the internship, research methods, results of the assignment, conclusions and a discussion.

In some cases, the internship provider may label the report or other products '*confidential*'. For legal guidelines, see the contract format (download available in Appendix IV). Wageningen University will not store these confidential products without prior consent from the internship provider or will not make them accessible for third parties: the report will be stored with confidential status. Wageningen University uses the reports for visitation purposes only.

### Reflection report

The reflection report is a personal reflection on the **academic skills** that you were able to apply or learn during the internship, the general and personal learning goals that have been

achieved (or are still to be achieved) and on the contribution of your internship to your career. The reflection report includes (at least) the following components, making use of the outcome of the progress evaluation:

- Motivation for the internship.
- A reflection on the general learning outcomes of the internship.
- A reflection on your personal learning goals, as set out in the Learning Agreement.
- A reflection on the relation between your Master's programme and your internship, and your potential professional career and future work field.

You will hand in your reports as soon as possible, ultimately ten working days before the oral defence and always in concert with your WU supervisor. You usually get one possibility to discuss a draft report with your WU supervisor before you hand in the final report.

### **Oral defence**

After completion of your internship, there is an oral defence of your project and reflection report with your WU supervisor and the examiner of your internship. The discussion focuses on the contents of the internship, in which your knowledge, understanding, insights, as well as creativity and scientific attitude are evaluated. You are expected to be able to place your results and conclusions in the wider context of the field of science and to indicate the possibilities for putting your findings into practice. The oral defence will be scheduled ten working days after you submitted your reports to the supervisor and examiner. You must make an appointment for the oral defence.

## 5. Completion of the internship

### Assessment of the internship

The assessment strategy below shows the relation between the learning outcomes and the different parts of the assessment. There are no minimum grades for the assessment categories for the internship, but you need a pass for the reflection report in order to get a sufficient mark for the internship. See Chapter 2 for a further explanation on the roles of host supervisor, WU supervisor and examiner in the assessment.

		Assessment categories				
		Performance	Project Report	Oral presentation	Oral defence	Reflection report
Weights	Description					
	% of grade	50%	40%	5%	5%	pass/fail
Learning outcomes	1 Evaluate career interests and ambitions in relation to the internship project and reflect on professional ambitions and capabilities.	x				x
	2 Perform a set of general professional skills at Master's level.	x	x	x		
	3 Transfer knowledge acquired during MSc education to a professional context and to conduct work tasks and projects at the level of an MSc graduate.	x	x	x	x	
	4 Evaluate the scientific and societal context and relevance of the internship project tasks.		x		x	
	5 Define personal learning goals, which could include domain-specific skills, and reflect on development therein.					x
Assessors	Host supervisor (advice)	x		x		
	WU supervisor (grade)	x	x	x	x	x
	WU Examiner (grade)*		x		x	x

\* The examiner will determine the final grading after a discussion with the WU supervisor.

A rubric is used for feedback and grading (see Appendix IV). The assessment of the host supervisor is communicated to the WU supervisor using the **MSc internship evaluation form host supervisor**. At the end of the internship period, results of all assessments are collected in a final **assessment form** in OSIRIS. The final grade is administered in OSIRIS. In addition,

after the examination you will receive the reasoning behind your internship grade, including specific feedback on all assessment categories.

### **Delay and possibility to resit**

The start and end date of your internship are recorded in the Learning Agreement and Internship Contract. There are a number of potential causes for delay in your internship project: force majeure, functional disabilities or an insufficient result for your internship.

In case of force majeure (circumstances beyond one's control) you can discuss an adjustment to your time schedule with your supervisor. Your supervisor can register an adjusted end date in OSIRIS.

In case of functional disabilities or other valid reasons for delay that are known beforehand, those should be mentioned at the start of the course. Your supervisor will only extend the regular duration of the project based on the advice of a student dean.

If you do not manage to complete a satisfactory project and reflection report before the end date recorded in the learning agreement, you may ask your supervisor for an extension of two months. Supervisors will extend the end date if they expect that you will be able to hand in a satisfactory report within these extra months. If you are not able to hand in a satisfactory report within two extra months, your WU supervisor and examiner can decide that you should start a new internship. This new internship does not necessarily need to have the same supervisor, chair group or be on the same subject. If you do start a new internship, this is still considered as a resit.

If you and your WU supervisor disagree on your being able to pass the course in two extra months, and you do not get up to two months extension for finishing your internship, you are able to send an appeal to the Examination Appeals Board. But ask your study adviser for advice first in this case; usually there are other possibilities to solve the issue.

### **Feedback on your internship**

Following the assessment, Wageningen University will send you a link to an online evaluation questionnaire. Please complete this, even if your internship project is finished. The results of the questionnaires help us to improve the quality of the internship supervision and organisation, and to identify potential (or actual) problems. The evaluation is anonymous.

## Part B: Specific regulations and recommendations ENR

### 1. Finding an internship

START EARLY! It is highly advisable to start in time to

- Discuss your plans and wishes with your study advisor
- Explore the range of opportunities for internships
- Discuss your plans and wishes with the ENR internship coordinator ([mohammed.degnet@wur.nl](mailto:mohammed.degnet@wur.nl))
- Enrol in the ENR thesis and internship Brightspace site to receive updates on internship opportunities (send an email to [mohammed.degnet@wur.nl](mailto:mohammed.degnet@wur.nl) to subscribe). You will need to fill out the ENR thesis and internship intake form and send it to the internship coordinator to be subscribed to the site. You can find the intake form on the ENR website.
- Follow the ENR group on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WURENR>
- Prepare a motivation letter and CV (*you can contact the Student Career Centre for tips on motivation letter and CVs*).

### 2. Preparing the internship

Once you have found an internship:

- Check with the ENR internship coordinator ([mohammed.degnet@wur.nl](mailto:mohammed.degnet@wur.nl)) if your internship meets the criteria for academic internships at WUR (see part A above) and who will be your WU supervisor during the internship
- Discuss the size of the internship with your supervisor and the study advisor
- After finding a supervisor for your internship, the student starts the administrative process of registering for the internship by starting a case and filling in the information in a learning agreement in OSIRIS. See details of how to do this [here](#).

After the WU internship supervisor has approved your internship:

- Inform other organisations where you are applying that you have accepted a position elsewhere
- Discuss the exact internship tasks with the host supervisor and WU supervisor
- Fill in two forms: the internship contract and the learning agreement.

The internship contract is to be signed by you, the internship host supervisor, and the designated representative of Wageningen University, which for the Section Economics is Marrit van den Berg ([marrit.vandenberg@wur.nl](mailto:marrit.vandenberg@wur.nl)). Students are strongly advised to use the standard contract offered by WU rather than any other contract such as one offered by the internship host. The WU internship contract has been designed by experts in legal issues regarding internships and WU would like to be a party to the agreement so we can help you in case of conflicts. If the host insists on using another contract, please send the proposed contract to the internship coordinator so it can be checked by the legal advisers of the Social Science Group. Note that this check can take some time so you need to send the contract well on time.

Think carefully about your personal learning outcomes. An internship is a unique opportunity to learn skills and gain insights that would not be as easily available in a university, so make use of that! Ideally you would

- Describe your learning outcomes actively: "After this internship I want to be able to..." (See Appendix I for guidelines)
- Devise a strategy for yourself to attain the learning outcome.

### 3. During the internship

- Discuss your learning outcomes with your host supervisor, how you plan to attain them, and how your host can support you in that
- Plan regular feedback meetings with your host supervisor
- Plan the progress evaluation with the host supervisor and the WU supervisor

### 4. Finalisation

#### *4 weeks before the end of the internship*

- Arrange a day, time, and location for the oral presentation at the internship provider.
- Communicate with your WU supervisor about the planning of the reports.

#### *3 weeks before the end of the internship*

- Provide a draft portfolio of products to the internship provider for a check on a correct representation of the organisation and projects, and on confidentiality.

#### *1 week before the examination*

- Upload the reports (see next section) with your student number and internship code to on OSIRIS. Check your approved study programme (SPA) for the correct internship code.
- The host supervisor will send the signed evaluation form of your performance to the WU supervisor.

## 5. What reports do you need to submit, and what is in them?

### General guidelines

In general your internship will produce three types of reports:

- *Deliverables* to your internship host: for example a research report, a policy plan, a description of a decision support tool, etc.
- The *context report*: a report that provides information necessary for the assessment of the internship that is not in the deliverables, e.g. a description of the organisation.
- The *reflection report*: a report where you reflect on your own personal learning outcomes (See page 9 for its contents).

The goal of this set of reports is to demonstrate that you have attained the learning outcomes of the internship (see page 2). More precisely, the reports should enable your supervisors and the examiner to assess your internship by the various criteria in the assessment rubric, i.e.

1. Context, goals and delineation of the research/project
2. Theoretical underpinning of goals and framework
3. Description and choice of methods and processing of information/data
4. Presentation of data and results
5. Evaluation of results
6. Clarity and justification of conclusions
7. Writing skills
8. Evaluation of relevance of the internship tasks

Therefore, whether you are doing a research internship or a professional internship, somewhere in the reports you should

1. Explain the problem that you addressed in your activities, the objective of your activities, and their delineation;
2. Discuss the theories and scientific insights that you applied in your activities;
3. Explain the methods or strategy that you applied to attain the objective;
4. Present the results of your activities;
5. Reflect on the limitations of your method and results;
6. Draw conclusions and recommendations for the internship host; and

Reflect on how your activities contribute to the goals of the internship host.

The ENR group offers a template for a context report that contains all elements needed for the examination. It is not compulsory to use this template, but using will help to make sure that your context report is complete. You can find the template on the ENR Thesis and Internship Brightspace site.

### **Research internship**

A research internship will result in a research report, a context report, and a reflection report. The *research report* should contain the information that you would normally expect from a research report, i.e. the problem statement, objectives, research questions, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusions. The *context report* can then be fairly limited and contain (1) a description of the organisation and its objectives; (2) a description of the relevant theories and literature, if this is not included in the research report; and (3) a reflection on the relevance of the research to the organisation. The *reflection report* then contains the reflection on your own personal learning outcomes.

### **Professional internship**

Professional internships are very diverse, and they can be quite different from research internships. Instead of a research report, you might produce educational material, policy briefs, a decision support system, or some other kind of content-driven output. Different internship hosts might also have different standards and wishes with respect to the output from the internship: some might require a description of the scientific literature whereas others could not be bothered; some might even expect just a Powerpoint presentation rather than a written report.

Whatever the output, it is important to remember that *you are applying science*, even if you are not doing research. Whatever you produce will draw on the knowledge that you have gained during your studies, as well as the current state of the art in science. This should be reflected in the set of reports that are produced by your internship. Moreover, your reports should demonstrate that your activities require an *academic level of thinking*. This means that you have thought carefully about the problem addressed by the activity, the objective of the activity, and the strategy to attain that objective; and that you can reflect on the limitations of your strategy, the extent to which you have attained the objective, and how the activity fits in the wider context of the host organisation.

The contents of the deliverable(s) to the host are to be agreed between the host supervisor and the student. After this has been agreed, the ENR supervisor can decide what should be in the *context report*. Most likely the assessment requires information that is not in the deliverable(s), such as a description of the organisation, or a review of the relevant scientific literature. But even if some information is in the deliverable(s), such as a description of the method and results, it is helpful to include a summary of it in the context

report. Please discuss the intended contents of the context report with your supervisor. The *reflection report* then contains the reflection on your own personal learning outcomes.

## **6. Extra for internships abroad**

- If applicable: arrange the permission to travel to risk areas (see WU travel policy).
- If possible, apply for grants.
- Make sure you have the right vaccinations for the travel destination(s).
- Arrange proper insurances.
- Timely apply for a student visa if necessary.
- Arrange travel tickets.
- Arrange housing.
- Fill in the 'OV studentenkaart buitenland' and hand in the OV card to receive a refund of travelling costs (*for Dutch students only*).

# Appendices

## Appendix I: Guidelines for defining your personal learning goals

### Why is it important?

Setting up personal learning goals supports you to focus on your learning process and progress during the internship. These learning goals are the behaviour and knowledge areas that you identify as important for your learning. Your goals should be useful for you, yet they should not be only self-serving. Working on your personal learning goals should enhance your functioning within the internship organisation and result in a higher quality end product. Therefore, it is useful to discuss your personal learning goals with your supervisors. Your previous lectures or peers with whom you have worked during earlier projects might already have some useful feedback that provides you with input for defining your personal learning goals.

### How do I define personal learning goals?

For the internship, you need to formulate a minimum of two personal learning goals. These can be, for example, related to your professional career ambitions, specific domain knowledge you want to obtain or specific skills you want to improve. For each learning goal you follow the following steps.

**Step 1.** Choose elements from the different domains of learning (academic/scientific and social learning), as an inspiration to set up personal learning goals. Choose elements you feel personally motivated to work on in the coming months.

**Step 2.** Describe the learning goal in general terms in one sentence. Start with 'I' and formulate your goal positively and actively. Describe what you aim for. Make it active in the sense that you state the desired outcome. Do not state what you do not want: state what you want.

For example: 'I accept and use received feedback'.

Or: 'I determined if the tasks, structure and working environment of the internship provider are an appropriate career goal for me'.

**Step 3.** Create a visual analogue scale from 0 to 5 and define the level of attainment you aim at. A '5' means an optimal performance in relation to the specific learning goal you want to improve. Describe the desired level you are aiming to achieve in a short description. It can be a combination of the three aspects knowledge, skill and your personal attitude (or convictions).

E.g. aspects related to:

- Knowledge: learning to know when and how to apply knowledge.
- Skills: learning to do.
- Attitude: learning to *act* (e.g. related to others and yourself, sense of care, sense of responsibility, integrating values into your own value system).

*Example of the desired attainment level at in case of 'I accept and use feedback'.*

'I have an open attitude and pro-actively ask for feedback. Furthermore, I have a conversation about that feedback to truly understand it. Based on this conversation, I design a plan to implement relevant feedback and consciously use that plan during my internship. I

welcome feedback from my colleagues and host supervisor. I check with them whether I have improved regarding the feedback they gave me.'

**Step 4.** Indicate your current level of performance.

Describe your current level of performance regarding the learning goal: assess your own abilities, for example by including elements of knowledge, skills and attitude. It helps you to clarify what steps need to be taken to improve.

*Example present performance:*

'I am open to receive feedback from most of the involved persons, but only if I trust them. I hardly ask for feedback. I struggle with selecting relevant feedback but do create and partially execute my plan to implement the feedback if it seems relevant to me.'

**Step 5.** Indicate the way you are going to achieve your personal learning goals. Determine what is reasonable for you to act upon within the coming months. Make sure that you set yourself SMART action points (specific, measurable, acceptable, realistic, well-timed).

Example: Within the forthcoming two months ...

-I will ask the host supervisor and I will look on internet to provide me with elaborate information on receiving feedback and set up my own rules.

-I will practice receiving feedback from my internship colleagues by asking them for feedback about my behaviour.

**How to use your personal learning goals**

The personal learning goals are the basis for your reflection report (by means of a self-assessment). They are key to your development throughout the internship and will help you to prepare for your future career.

Although setting up personal learning goals helps you to focus on what you want to learn, they should always be related to your functioning at the internship. It is important to realise that learning goals are not static. You are free to adjust them if necessary, for example during the **progress evaluation** (see Appendix III).

## **Appendix II: Checklist when other internship contracts are used**

Note: using the WU contract form (aligned with all Dutch universities by VSNU) is strongly advised.

1. Make sure that the period of the internship is correctly addressed (start and finish data; no open end).
2. Make sure that your internship assignment is well described and that the plan for the internship (your Learning Agreement) is part of the contract.
3. Make sure that there are clear agreements regarding working hours, facilities and possibilities for leave.
4. Be aware that the author rights of the internship reports belong to you.
5. Be aware that it is clear to whom the intellectual property rights of the outcomes of the internship belong; most likely to the employer.
6. Be aware that the WU is allowed to use the internship reports for accreditation purposes (including confidential reports).
7. Make sure that no penalty clause has been included in the agreement and contact the internship coordinator of the chair group if a penalty clause is part of the contract.
8. Make sure that your internship coordinator has checked the specific agreement before you sign it.

Checklist for a separate NDA (non-disclosure agreement), partly overlapping the checklist above:

1. Make sure you agree upon a certain period of time for the confidentiality.
2. Make sure that your WU supervisor, the examining board, WU examiners and the accreditation panel have access to the confidential part of your report(s).
3. Make sure that no penalty clause has been included in this agreement.

### Appendix III: Format progress evaluation MSc Internship

Between eight and ten weeks after the start of your internship, you will be asked to reflect on the progress made in the initial internship plan and formulated personal learning goals, and complete this form together with your host supervisor . You should send the progress evaluation form to your WU supervisor afterwards, to be reflected on during the progress evaluation meeting.

Progress made in project and planning:

Progress made in achieving the personal learning goals:

Impression of your general performance at the internship provider (ask your supervisor and near colleagues):

Strong points: .....

  
  

Points for improvement / to pay attention to: .....

Topics you are going to work on the forthcoming months:

Overall impression of your internship:

'The student will be able to finish internship satisfactorily'

Yes / No

(If you hesitate to answer this question positively, please contact your WU supervisor within short notice).

Agreed and signed by

Date: .....

Student

Internship (host) supervisor

.....

\_\_\_\_\_

Sent to the WU supervisor on ..... (date).

Note: The responsibility of organising a progress evaluation lies with the student. The outcome should be included in the self-reflection report at the end of the internship. In case there are issues regarding the progress or the completion of the progress evaluation form, please contact your WU supervisor.

## Appendix IV: Downloads

- **Wageningen University MSc Internship Contract**

The internship contract, developed together with all Dutch universities and supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, serves to lay down the agreement on the internship between the student, the internship employer and the University.

Signed copies have to be sent to your internship coordinator, the host supervisor (on behalf of the employer) and your WU supervisor.

The actual version of the internship contract is available on the WUR website:

<https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Student-Service-Centre/Show-ssc/Forms-Student-Service-Centre.htm>

- **Evaluation form host supervisor**

The host supervisor will be asked to complete the 'Evaluation form host supervisor' after completion of the internship. The observations in the evaluation form will have advisory status to the supervisor and examiner concerning the assessment. We encourage you to have a look at the form at the start of your project. You can download the most recent version of the form at the Education & Student Affairs SharePoint site: <http://wur.eu/thesis-internship>

- **Assessment form and rubrics**

The WU internship assessment form and rubric will be used to grade your internship after completion. We encourage you to look at the assessment criteria at the start of your project. You can download the most recent version of the assessment form and rubric from the Education & Student Affairs SharePoint site: <http://wur.eu/thesis-internship>

- **Template internship context report**

The ENR group offers a template for a context report that contains all elements needed for the examination. You can find the template on the ENR Theses and Internships Brightspace site.