Guidelines on Internship for BSc Students

(4-year curriculum)



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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1. Background

Capstone experience is an integral part of the major/programme which focuses on integration and application of knowledge and skills gained in the early years of study.

Internship is considered as a form of capstone experience recognized to fulfill the capstone requirements for the following majors/programme offered in the Faculty of Science:

BSc (Actuarial Science)

BSc

- Major in Astronomy
- Major in Biochemistry
- Major in Biological Sciences
- Major in Chemistry
- Major in Decision Analytics
- Major in Environmental Science
- Major in Food & Nutritional Science
- Major in Mathematics
- Major in Mathematics/Physics
- Major in Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
- Major in Physics
- Major in Risk Management
- Major in Statistics

2. Learning Objectives of Internship

Through the internship, students are expected:

- to gain working experience in a real-world workplace environment;
- to have diverse learning experience;
- to integrate theory and practice, and to understand limitations of their current knowledge;
- to work in a team and to collaborate with people with diverse background;
- to broaden their social and cultural experience, and to develop their social and cultural values; and
- to prepare for their life-long career.

3. General Arrangements

(Actuarial Science students please refer to the "Guidelines on Internship and Course STAT4767 for Actuarial Science Students (4-year curriculum)" which is specific to the situation of actuarial science internship.)

A. Internship Courses

Students who wish to engage in internship must enroll in an internship course in order to have their work recognized to fulfill the capstone requirements of some of these majors/programme in the BSc 4-year curriculum. The following internship courses are currently offered in the BSc of 4-year curriculum with course description shown in Appendix A:

Major/Programme	Internship Course
Biochemistry	BIOC4966 Biochemistry internship
Biological Sciences	BIOL4964 Biological sciences internship
Chemistry	CHEM4966 Chemistry internship
Earth System Science	EASC4966 Earth sciences internship
Geology	(See Remark 1)
Ecology & Biodiversity	BIOL4861 Ecology & biodiversity internship
	(See Remark 2)
Environmental Science	ENVS4966 Environmental science internship
Food & Nutritional Science	BIOL4962 Food & nutritional science internship
Mathematics	MATH4966 Mathematics internship
Mathematics/Physics	MATH4966 Mathematics internship
	PHYS4966 Physics internship
Molecular Biology &	BIOL4963 Molecular biology & biotechnology
Biotechnology	internship
Astronomy	PHYS4966 Physics internship
Physics	
Decision Analytics	STAT4766 Statistics internship
Risk Management	
Statistics	
Actuarial Science	STAT4767 Actuarial science internship

Remarks:

- 1. EASC4966 is not considered as a capstone course for Earth System Science and Geology majors.
- 2. BIOL4861 is not considered as a capstone course for Ecology & Biodiversity major.

B. Types of Internships

i. Internal (within the University)

The student works on a project or various tasks as instructed by a staff member from the Faculty/School/Department and is supervised by this staff member (the Teacher Supervisor).

ii. External (outside the university)

The student works in an external agency related to the major of study and is supervised by both staff members of that agency (the External Supervisor) and the Faculty/School/Department of the student (the Internal Supervisor).

C. Number of Credits

6 credits, graded on 'Pass with Distinction, Pass, Fail basis' (for all departmental internship courses). The courses would not be counted in the calculation of the CGPA.

D. Nature of Work

For the discipline specific internship courses, as all internships are enrolled under an internship course of a specific major discipline, the work carried out by the student in the internship must be **relevant to the major**. Internship Course Coordinators and Internal Supervisors have the responsibility to ensure that the work carried out will meet the learning objectives of the internship course.

E. Duration and Time of Internship

The number of hours as specified in the course descriptions of discipline specific internship courses is at least 160 hours (lunch hour excluded) in at least 20 working days. (Appendix A). A working day is defined as a day that the student is working, regardless of the hours of work. It includes office hours, related work preparation, field trip or other forms approved by the supervisor(s). It can be allocated in term-time, semester break or summer vacation, and the mode of internship can be full-time or part-time, according to the requirement and the nature of work as specified by the external agency or the Faculty/School/Department. If students would like to take full-time internship during term time (semester 1 or 2), they should apply for leave of absence, and the enrollment of the course will be shown in the next semester following the leave period.

F. Requirement and Assessment

- i. Students may have to attend a briefing session(s) about the job details and work ethics arranged by the Faculty/School/Department or the external agency before the internship.
- ii. Students should submit an application form of internship course (Appendix B) to the Course Coordinator of the internship course BEFORE the commencement of internship for approval following the schedule set by the School/Department.

- iii. A 15-minute oral presentation about the job nature, knowledge and skills related to the major discipline, self-reflection and other contents (if appropriate) should be conducted, followed by a written report of not less than 1,000 words submitted to the Faculty/School/Department after the internship has been completed.
- iv. In both internal and external internship, the immediate supervisor should complete an evaluation form for assessing the student's performance.

G. Eligibility of Students

As the internship course is a level 4 course, and is considered as a form of Capstone experience to fulfill the capstone requirements (except BIOL4861 and EASC4966), students should have passed at least 4 advanced courses (24 credits with codes starting with 3 or above) in their Science major curriculum before the commencement of the internship. The earliest that students are allowed to take the internship course is their Year 3 study (internship in the summer of Year 2 study is not eligible for internship course enrollment). Normally applicants will be selected by the Faculty/School/Department or the external agency based on their academic performance, extra-curricular activities record and interview performance. Only successful candidates can be engaged in the internship.

H. Sources of Internship Positions from External Agency

i. From the Faculty/School/Department

The Faculty/School/Department may have already established the connection with some external agencies. Students should check the announcement from the Faculty/School/Department and observe the procedure and deadline of application.

ii. Direct approach by the student

Students may contact external agencies on their own and provide details for the approval of internship Course Coordinator before they start the internship. Prior approval by the internship Course Coordinator <u>MUST</u> be obtained before commencement of the internship, and **no post-application is allowed**.

Tips for students

- 1. As the places offered by the School/Department are limited and competitive, students are strongly recommended to actively approach potential agencies for internship opportunities. Both internship opportunities within the School/Department and external are encouraged.
- 2. The schedule for summer internship is tight. Students should make preparation for application and interview from March.

I. Expectation on Student in Practice

Students should follow the regulations of the internship agency and instructions from the supervisors. If any irregularity exists, student should immediately report to the External Supervisor and/or Course Coordinator/ Internal Supervisor.

J. Role & Responsibility of Supervisor

i. Teacher Supervisor of internal internship and External Supervisor of external internship

The supervisors are expected to

- supervise, and offer timely opinion and comment for students.
- complete an evaluation form (Appendix C) about the student at the end of the internship.
- give overall feedback, based on the evaluation form, to individual student after the internship so that the student may identify his/her strengths and weaknesses as an employee in the real world and seek further improvement.

ii. Internal Supervisor of external internship

If time and situations permit, the supervisor is expected to

- visit the student or interview him/her by phone to have an understanding of his/her performance and working environment with the permission from the external agency;
- give overall feedback, based on the evaluation form, to individual student after the internship so that the student may identify his/her strengths and weaknesses as an employee in the real world and seek further improvement.

K. Enrollment

The Faculty will only recognize students who have formally enrolled in the internship courses offered to fulfill the capstone requirement (except BIOL4861 and EASC4966). Due to the nature of the course, the Faculty will not open the internship course for students to enroll during the online course selection period. Students who wish to enroll in the internship course should submit the application form of internship course to the Course Coordinator of the internship course for approval BEFORE the commencement of the internship AND no later than the deadline set for each semester. Respective School/Department will then provide the enrollment information to the Faculty. Under normal circumstances, dropping of the internship course after submitting the application is not allowed.

L. Timeline of Internship

The following is a suggested schedule of events for internship for summer, first and second semester.

i. Internship in the summer semester:

Time	Event					
February/March	Announcement of internship positions starts					
March/April	Application of internship					
	- Student may be required to submit CV and cover letter to the					
	relevant unit					
	Interview (optional)					
	- It is conducted either by the Faculty/School/Department or the					
	external agency					
April/May	Announcement of list of successful applicants					
	A briefing session for preparation of internship					
	Submit the application form of internship course to the Course					
	Coordinator for approval BEFORE the commencement of the					
	internship and no later than mid-July					
June to July	Internship starts					
	Submit the above form again if there is any update about the real					
	situation within the first two weeks of internship					
Late July	School/Department to submit enrolment information to the Faculty					
August to	The Teacher Supervisor and External Supervisor complete the					
September	Evaluation Form (optional for Internal Supervisor of external					
	internship)					
	The Course Coordinator collects the questionnaire from the external					
	agency					
	An oral presentation and submission of a written report					
Late September	School/Department to submit students' grade to the Faculty					

ii. Internship in the first semester:

Time	Event
June/July	Announcement of internship positions starts
August	Application of internship
	- Student may be required to submit CV and cover letter to the
	relevant unit
	Interview (optional)
	- It is conducted either by the Faculty/School/Department or
	the external agency
September	Announcement of list of successful applicants
	A briefing session for preparation of internship
	Submit the application form of internship course to the Course
	Coordinator for approval BEFORE the commencement of the
	internship and no later than mid-November
September to	Internship starts
December	Submit the above form again if there is any update about the real
	situation within the first two weeks of internship
Late November	School/Department to submit enrolment information to the Faculty
December to	The Teacher Supervisor and External Supervisor complete the
January	Evaluation Form (optional for Internal Supervisor of external
	internship)
	The Course Coordinator collects the questionnaire from the external
	agency
	An oral presentation and submission of a written report
Early January	School/Department to submit students' grade to the Faculty

iii. Internship in the second semester:

Time	Event
October/November	Announcement of internship positions starts
December	Application of internship
	- Student may be required to submit CV and cover letter to the
	relevant unit
	Interview (optional)
	- It is conducted either by the Faculty/School/Department or
	the external agency
January	Announcement of list of successful applicants
	A briefing session for preparation of internship
	Submit the application form of internship course to the Course
	Coordinator for approval BEFORE the commencement of the
	internship and no later than mid-April
January to April	Internship starts
	Submit the above form again if there is any update about the real
	situation within the first two weeks of internship
Late April	School/Department to submit enrolment information to the Faculty
May to June	The Teacher Supervisor and External Supervisor complete the
	Evaluation Form (optional for Internal Supervisor of external
	internship)
	The Course Coordinator collects the questionnaire from the external
	agency
	An oral presentation and submission of a written report
Early June	School/Department to submit students' grade to the Faculty

4. Special Issues

A. Salary

Salary given to students for their internship work may encourage students to take the internship more seriously. However, it is not compulsory. Course Coordinator should reach an agreement with the students and/or the external agency before the internship.

B. Insurance

All full-time undergraduate students of the University are already covered by the University's insurance scheme during the internship period.

C. Leave Application

i. Before internship

If the internship takes place as a full-time position during the first or second semester, students have to apply to **the Faculty** for leave of absence with the submission of a letter with the copy of contract in advance.

ii. During internship

If students have to take leave during the internship, they should follow the procedures as specified by the agency or supervisor.

Appendices

Appendix A Course Description of Internship Course

Appendix B Application Form of Internship Course

Appendix C Evaluation on Intern Students

Appendix D Examples of Internship Offered by Schools/Departments in Previous Years

Appendix E List of Internship Course Coordinators of 4-year Curriculum (2017-18)

Appendix F General Notes of Submission Deadlines of Application of Internship Course

and Listing of Course Enrollment for Different Periods and Modes of

Internship (2017-18)

Course Description of Internship Course

BIOC4966 Biochemistry internship BIOL4964 Biological Sciences internship EASC4966 Earth Sciences internship

MATH4966 Mathematics internship STAT4766 Statistics internship

BIOL4861 Ecology & biodiversity internship BIOL4962 Food & nutritional science internship BIOL4963 Molecular biology & biotechnology internship CHEM4966 Chemistry internship ENVS4966 Environmental Science internship PHYS4966 Physics internship

Aim/Contents

This course aims to offer students the opportunities to gain work experience in the industry related to their major of study. The workplace learning experience would be of great benefits to the students to apply their knowledge gained in the study to the real work environments. Students have to take on at least 160 hours of internship work either within the University or outside the University arranged by the Faculty/School/Department.

- (1) Within the university: The student will be supervised by a staff member (Supervisor), working on a project or various tasks as instructed by the Supervisor.
- (2) Outside the university: The student will work in an external agency related to the major of study. The student will be supervised under a staff member of the external agency (the External Supervisor) and a staff member Department/School of the student (the Internal Supervisor). The work to be performed by the student will normally be instructed by the External Supervisor, with prior agreement of the Internal Supervisor.

Teaching

No formal teaching, but it is expected that students are to work at least 160 hours (lunch hour excluded) in at least 20 working days.

Upon completion of the internship, each student is required to submit a written report and to give a presentation on their internship experience. Supervisors are required to assess the students based on their performance during the internship period (in the case of internships outside the university, the Internal Supervisor will assess the student based on the feedback by the External Supervisor). Satisfactory completion of this course can be counted towards the Capstone requirement. Details of internship will be recorded on the student's transcript. This course will be assessed on 'Pass with Distinction, Pass, Fail basis'.

* Enrolment of this course is not conducted via the online course selection system and should be made through the relevant School/Department Office after approval has been obtained from the Course Coordinator.

For the course description of STAT4767 Actuarial science internship, please refer to the 'Guidelines on Internship and Course STAT4767 for Actuarial Science Students (4-year curriculum)'.

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Internship Course Application Form

Completed application form together with supporting documents should be submitted to the Course Coordinator of the internship course BEFORE the commencement of the internship. Post internship application will not be considered.

ent					
(* Please dele	ete as appropriate)				
			姓名(中文):		
t Name	First Name				
		Year of study:		CGPA:	
BSc(AC)	Major:	-28	* Second major / Minor	TI	- 20
e)		(Mobile)	Email address:		
the internshi	n)	-			
	r)				
3-					
From		to	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Office se	eparately in summer only	ply for leave of absence	in the * first / second semes	ter of	to the Faculty
-					
eted at least ?	24 credits of advar	nced level courses in the	e major BEFORE the comme	encement of the internshi	p, otherwise,
		Da	ite:		
rse Coordina	itor				
course (cour	se code and title)	v			is * approved
		Depa	rtment/school:		
	From Full-time Office se Full-time Part-time eted at least ship course of the Coordinate of the Coordi	(*Please delete as appropriate) t Name First Name BSc(AC) Major: the internship) From Full-time, and I have to approfice separately Full-time in summer only Part-time Part-time Reported at least 24 credits of advantship course eventually. I also	(*Please delete as appropriate) It Name First Name Year of study: BSc(AC) Major: (Mobile) The internship) Name Superior Sup	#名(中文): # Second major / Mino: Major:	(*Please delete as appropriate) 技名(中文): t Name



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG (NAME OF DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL)

Evaluation on Intern Students

Dear Employer/Supervisor,

Please complete an assess (Name of Department/Schno.). Thank you.			Kong, Hong		ax at (fax
Name of Company/Organ	nization:				
Name of Student:					
Internship Period:		(Total no	o. of working	hours:	.)
<u> </u>	Employer's/Sup	ervisor's A	<u> 1ssessment</u>		
Please describe briefly internship:	the nature of the	work underta	nken by the st	udent during th	e _
2. Please assess the performance for each item listed.	mance of the inter	rn student by	checking the	most appropri	- ate box
Knowledge of discipline	□ Verv good	□ Good	□ Fair	□ Poor	
Work effectiveness	☐ Very good	\square Good	☐ Fair	☐ Poor	
Attitude	☐ Very good	\square Good	☐ Fair	□ Poor	
Communication skills	☐ Very good	\square Good	☐ Fair	☐ Poor	
Reliability	☐ Very good	\square Good	☐ Fair	□ Poor	
Motivation	☐ Very good	\square Good	☐ Fair	□ Poor	
Team worker	☐ Very good	\square Good	☐ Fair	□ Poor	
Willingness to learn	□ Very good	□ Good	□ Fair	□ Poor	

	lease cir ne intern		grade y	you wou	ld give	the stu	dent for	his/he	r overal	l perfori	mance	during
	A+	A	A-	B+	В	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
4. Su	ıggestior	ns for t	he stude	ent:								
Nam	e of Asso	essor:					Sign	nature:				-
	tion in C	-										
	:						E	mail: _				

Examples of Internship Offered by Schools/Departments in Previous Years

School/Department	Company Name	Duration
Biomedical	School of Biomedical Sciences, HKU	14 weeks
Sciences	21000 01 210000000000000000000000000000	11. ((00115)
Biological Sciences	Population Council, New York	10 weeks
Brorogreur scrences	School of Biological Sciences, HKU	4 weeks
	ALS Technichem (HK) Pty Limited	11 weeks
	Biotechnology Research Institute, Chinese Academy of	6 weeks
Chemistry	Agricultural Sciences	0 Weeks
	Hong Kong Productivity Council	10 weeks
	SGS Hong Kong Limited	6-14 weeks
	EGS (Asia) Limited	6-7 weeks
	Gammon Construction Limited	9 weeks
	Halcrow China Limited	8 weeks
Earth Sciences	Jacobs China Limited	8 weeks
Earth Sciences	Maunsell Geotechnical Services Limited	8 weeks
	OZ Minerals Limited (Former: Oxiana China Limited)	4 weeks
	Scott Wilson Group plc	7-9 weeks
	Xinjiang Gold Mountain Mining Company Limited	9-10 weeks
Mathematics	Mathematics Department, The University of Hong Kong	4-9 weeks
Mathematics	Maunsell Consultants Asia Limited	8-9 weeks
	Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre	8 weeks
Physics	Hong Kong Science Museum	8 weeks
	Hong Kong Space Museum	8 weeks
	Bank of Communications (Shanghai Branch)	6-8 weeks
	Bloomberg L P	10 weeks
	Census & Statistics Department, HKSARG	9 weeks
Statistics &	Hang Seng Bank Limited	8 weeks
Actuarial Science	Hospital Authority	8 weeks
	Samsung Electronics Hong Kong Company Limited	8 weeks
	The Bank of East Asia, Limited	13-14 weeks
	Willis Re Hong Kong Limited	12 weeks

<u>List of Internship Course Coordinators of 4-year Curriculum (2017-18)</u>

Course	Major	Course Coordinator			
BIOC4966 Biochemistry internship	• Biochemistry	Prof Jiandong HUANG	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm L3-72, Laboratory Block, Faculty of Medicine Bldg, 21 Sassoon Road 3917 6810 jdhuang@hku.hk	
BIOL4861 Ecology & biodiversity internship	• Ecology & Biodiversity	Dr Thiyagarajan VENGATESEN	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 2S03, Kadoorie Biological Sciences Bldg 2299 0601 rajan@hku.hk	
BIOL4962 Food & nutritional science internship	• Food & Nutritional Science	Dr Jetty C Y LEE	Office: Tel: Email	Rm 6S09, Kadoorie Biological Sciences Bldg 2299 0318 jettylee@hku.hk	
BIOL4963 Molecular biology & biotechnology internship	Molecular Biology & Biotechnology	Dr Wing Kin YIP	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 7S09, Kadoorie Biological Sciences Bldg 2299 0328 wkyip@hku.hk	
BIOL4964 Biological sciences internship	• Biological Sciences	Prof Will W M LEE	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 4N11, Kadoorie Biological Sciences Bldg 2299 0849 hrszlwm@hku.hk	
CHEM4966 Chemistry internship	• Chemistry	Dr Ho Yu AU-YEUNG	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 503, Chong Yuet Ming Chemistry Bldg 2219 4697 hoyuay@hku.hk	
EASC4966 Earth sciences internship	 Earth System Science Geology	Dr Xuran ZUO	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 403A, James Hsioung Lee Science Bldg 2219 4170 xuranzuo@hku.hk	
ENVS4966 Environmental science internship	• Environmental Science	Dr Christelle A NOT	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 306, Hui Oi Chow Science Bldg 3917 7831 cnot@hku.hk	
MATH4966 Mathematics internship	MathematicsMathematics/Physics	Dr Tak Kwong WONG	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 317, Run Run Shaw Bldg 2857 8579 takkwong@maths.hku.hk	
PHY4966 Physics internship	AstronomyMathematics/PhysicsPhysics	Dr Jason C S PUN	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 104D, Chong Yuet Ming Physics Bldg 2859 1962 jcspun@hku.hk	
STAT4766 Statistics internship	Decision AnalyticsRisk ManagementStatistics	Dr Chi Wai KWAN	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 236, Run Run Shaw Bldg 3917 8317 cwkwan@hku.hk	
STAT4767 Actuarial science internship	• Actuarial Science	Dr Andres Gustavo BENCHIMOL	Office: Tel: Email:	Rm 303, Run Run Shaw Bldg 3917 2466 ug_enquiry@saas.hku.hk	

Updated: July 24, 2017

General Notes of Submission Deadlines of Application of Internship Course and Listing of Course Enrollment for Different Periods and Modes of Internship (2017-18)

The following note summarizes the submission deadlines of application for internship course and listing of course enrollment for different periods and modes of internship:

Internship	Mode of	Deadline for student's	Leave of	Actual	
period in	internship	submission of	absence has to	enrollment	
2017-18		application to	be applied for	will be shown	
		School/Department		in	
1 st semester	Part-time	Before the start date of	Not applicable	1 st semester	
	Full-time	the internship AND no	1 st semester	2 nd semester	
		later than November			
		15, 2017			
2 nd semester	Part-time	Before the start date of	Not applicable	2 nd semester	
	Full-time	the internship AND no	2 nd semester	Summer	
		later than April 13,		semester	
		2018			
Summer	Part-time	Before the start date of	Not applicable	Summer	
semester	or	the internship AND no		semester	
	full-time	later than July 13, 2018			
1 st semester	Part-time	Before the start date of	Not applicable	2 nd semester	
and 2 nd	Full-time	the internship AND no	1 st and 2 nd	1 st semester of	
semester		later than November	semester	the next	
		15, 2017		academic year	
2 nd semester	Part-time	Before the start date of	Not applicable	Summer	
and summer		the internship AND no		semester	
semester	Full-time	later than April 13,	2 nd semester	Summer	
		2018		semester	
Summer	Part-time	Before the start date of	Not applicable	1 st semester	
semester and	Full-time	the internship AND no	1 st semester	2 nd semester	
1 st semester of		later than July 13, 2018			
2018-19					

6. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are there any pre-requisites for an internship course and when can I take the internship course? You should have passed at least 4 advanced courses (24 credits with codes starting with 3 or above) in your Science major curriculum **before** the commencement of the internship.

The earliest that a student is allowed to take this capstone course is their Year 3 study. You can take the course in the 1st semester, 2nd semester or summer semester.

2. How can I find out the internship opportunities?

Students should be aware of the announcement from the Faculty/Schools/Departments and

observe the procedure and deadline of application.

3. Can I find the internship by myself for the internship course?
Yes, students may contact external agencies and provide details for the approval of internship Course Coordinator before they start the internship. However, prior approval by the internship Course Coordinator must be obtained **before** the commencement of the internship.

4. Can I ask my School/Department to recognize my summer job experience as internship if later on I found that the job duties are very relevant to my major study?

No, post-application is NOT allowed for the internship course. Please also refer to Q3.

5. How long would be the internship period?

Students have to work at least 160 hours (lunch hour excluded) in at least 20 working days.

6. How can I pass the internship course?

Assessment will include 3 elements: your report, presentation and evaluation from your workplace supervisor. Please refer to Part 3(F) of the Guidelines.

7. Will I get paid for my internship?

You may or may not get paid for your internship and if you get paid, the amount will vary between companies.

8. Is there any insurance coverage for my internship?

All full-time undergraduate students of the University are covered by the University's insurance scheme during the internship period. Some companies would arrange the signing of employment contract for internship so that students can also be covered by their employees' compensation insurances.

9. What should I notice if I want to take full-time internship during the 1st or 2nd semester?

You should apply for leave of absence if you would like to take full-time internship during the 1st or 2nd semester. The enrolment of the course will be shown in the next semester following your leave period.