

internships – MA international track

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Internship Office

- room: X C2-109, reachable at pbuero@uni-bielefeld.de
- open office hours: Tuesdays 10-12 & Thursdays 12-14 (also individual consultations in the office, via zoom/telephone can be arranged via mail)
- main contact for accreditation of the internship module, also helping with:
 - identifying suitable areas of employment
 - finding an internship (internship & report archive)
 - applications
 - accreditations of already completed internships/employment

Finding a career as a sociologist

- no clear field of work for sociology graduates
 - high degree of freedom, that also comes with uncertainty and anxiety
- possible career paths often develop alongside your studies
- academia is often only one of many assets → many fields require prior interdisciplinary or work experience

Making the most of your studies

- possible careers and employment opportunities should be reflected during your studies
- opportunities to hone your profile during your studies:
 - topics of seminars and exam papers
 - interdisciplinary module (course programmes of other faculties)
 - university groups (political, interest, media & radio, etc.)
 - internships or part-time job (Werkstudentin/wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft)

Internship module (30-M-Soz-M13)

- elective module without profile/specialization
 - not a compulsory internship („Pflichtpraktikum“)
- internship (240h) + regular graded term paper (20-30 pages)

Internships should be registered with the internship office as soon as possible!

Duration of the internship

- duration of the internship: 240 working hours
 - e.g. full-time (40h/w) for six weeks
 - deviations are possible (part time, irregular etc.)
- partial internships possible (e.g. two internships of 120 hours)
- time period is freely plannable (during the semester is possible)
- seminars and deadlines can often be flexible!

Further options

- it is also possible to consider (prior) employment or volunteer work
 - should be comparable to an internship in activities and duration!
 - you still have to write a regular term paper
- prior activities may only be considered, if they were done up to one year prior to starting your MA studies
- Before you write the report, you should discuss with us whether accreditation is possible!

Where to do an internship?

- the field of work should be suitable to your study programme
- employment opportunities for sociologists are diverse, but there are limits:
 - should generally be a field of work, that you can have a career with your degree
(not teaching, social work or childhood development)
 - no home-office internships
 - no internships at THIS faculty, limited accreditation at THIS university

Academic / sociology employment market

- in general only a small percentage of job offers are exclusively aimed at sociologists → but increasing demands for academics or generalists
- demand in related fields or outside of them (marketing, HR etc.)
- low unemployment for academics, but often precarious entry into the labor market
- employment potential of social scientists is high, but must be actively conquered

Advise for the internship search

- research into internship opportunities is needed!
- only a small percentages is easily findable via search engines and large online-portals
 - research organizations instead of positions
 - build your network! ask your lecturers and fellow students
 - contact organizations or persons directly and show initiative