

Dr. Viktor Friedmann

Internship

BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The aim of the internship

The Bachelor's degree programme in International Relations aims to train professionals who are able to understand the interrelationships between global, regional, and national processes, keeping relations effectively in an international environment, and solve complex problems efficiently. The internship is an essential part of the training programme, which provides students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge of diplomacy, law, economics, and the social sciences in a real international or public policy environment while developing their professional identity and professional network.

The purpose of the internship is not merely to gain work experience, but also to understand how international organisations, foreign affairs administrations, diplomatic missions, and companies or civil society organisations engaged in international cooperation operate; how organisational objectives can be reconciled with economic and political realities; how to work in an intercultural environment; and how a professional in international relations can contribute to the successful implementation of complex projects and grant applications.

What is considered professionally relevant work experience?

Any activity may be accepted if the student becomes involved in the international, public policy, analytical, project management, or communication processes of an organisation.

Those tasks are regarded to be especially relevant which involves the student's participation in:

- the planning, coordination, or implementation of international projects;
- contributes to the preparation of policy analyses, reports, or background materials;
- supports international relations, protocol-related activities, or diplomatic communication;
- assists with EU or other international grant applications;
- collects and analyses data on global or regional trends;
- contributes to the organisation of international cultural, political, or economic cooperation.

The typical areas of work for the Internship

1. Analysis and Research Support

- preparing professional and policy background materials and managing research databases;
- monitoring international events, regional trends, or security policy developments;
- analysing and visualising economic and social indicators for decision-support materials;
- foreign policy and policy-oriented journalism.

2. Project Management and Grant-Related Activities

- operational support for international projects and monitoring project schedules;
- managing and organising corporate and other organisational project activities;
- preparing grant documentation and providing administrative support;
- maintaining contact and coordinating activities with project partners.

3. International Communication and Diplomacy

- organising international events, conferences, or visits by delegations;
- communication tasks performed in an international environment;

- carrying out protocol-related activities and maintaining contact with foreign partners;
- professional communication, media monitoring, and preparing communication materials in several languages.

4. Support for EU and Institutional Processes supporting administrative

- supporting professional tasks related to the operation of European Union institutions;
- interpreting and summarising policy proposals;
- cooperating with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and public-sector organisations.

RECOMMENDED EMPLOYMENT AREAS AND TYPES OF ORGANISATIONS

During their internship, students should ideally gain experience in environments where international communication, complex information analysis, and project-based work are dominant.

1. Public and Governmental Sector

- **Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Institutions:** Background institutions of ministries, embassies, consulates, or state foreign trade promotion agencies, (for example in project assistant or analytical positions).
- **International Relations Departments of Local Governments:** Supporting international relations officers and organising twinning programmes.
- **Public Grant Management Organisations:** Government agencies responsible for allocating, managing, and monitoring EU funding.

2. International Organisations and Institutions

- **European Union institutions and agencies:** Professional internship positions providing insight into EU decision-making processes.
- **International organisations (UN system, OSCE, OECD):** Supporting the preparation of international conferences and conducting research assistance activities.

3. Business Sector (Multinational and Corporate Environment)

- **International Trade Departments:** Foreign economic analysis, preparation of market-entry strategies, and support for export-import administration.
- **Government Relations departments:** At large companies, students may participate in monitoring the regulatory environment and supporting advocacy strategies.
- **Communications Departments** in international environment
- **International business consulting companies:** Market research, international client management, and preparation of consulting materials.

4. Civil Society and Think Tanks

- **Foreign Affairs and Political Research Institutes:** Preparing background materials, analyses, and professional opinions on international political or security policy issues.
- **International or Domestic NGOs:** Analytical, project management, and communication activities in organisations dealing with humanitarian, environmental, human rights, or other social issues.
- **Foundations:** Coordinating international educational, cultural, or development projects.

Summary

The professional internship provides students with an opportunity to integrate the theoretical knowledge acquired through the curriculum—including law, economics, politics, and history—and apply and synthesize it in practice. The internship can be considered successful when the student recognises the local or organisational impact of global processes and is able to independently and responsibly perform complex tasks in a professional international environment.