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# What Determines International Internship SATISFACTION & EFFECTIVENESS?

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- The Study
- Implications for Intern Stakeholders
- Recommendations for Best Practices

# Are you in one of the stakeholder categories identified?

- a. Intern or intern wanna-be
- b. Intern employer
- c. University stakeholder: career office/center, academic advisor, faculty, administrator...
- d. Other

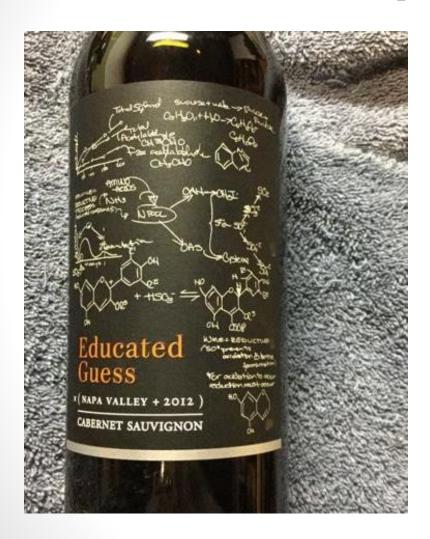
### The Study

- 2014-2016
- Participants:
- 32 (globally based)
   interns & supervisors
- 7 university
   stakeholders
- On line surveys & follow up interviews



#### RESEARCH QUESTION:

What determines internship satisfaction?





### Interns were asked about...

- Satisfaction levels for
  - developing skills (global competencies, communication)
  - gaining knowledge in field of interest
  - engaging in meaningful work
  - developing professional network
  - having the ability to apply classroom learning
  - training
  - supervision and mentorship
  - frequency and quality of feedback
  - overall value and satisfaction of internship
- Fulfillment of internship expectations
- Usefulness of internship in relation to career interests

# Supervisors were asked about satisfaction in...

- Intern preparedness for the internship (knowledge, skills, and attitudes)
- Intern ability to receive feedback and make necessary corrections
- Quality of intern performance
- Intern contribution to organization
- Value of the intern program
- Interaction with university liaison

### University Stakeholders

#### Based on your role:

- What determines a satisfactory internship for both students and the university?
- What can the university do better to prepare students for international internships?
- What challenges did you face coordinating with and communicating with site supervisors?

### Bottom Line Discovery:

There is a direct correlation between internship effectiveness and internship satisfaction.

#### So...

The question is NOT
What Determines Internship
Satisfaction?

but ...

What Makes Internships
Effective?

Significant
Stakeholders
Determine
Internship
Effectiveness



#### The Intern



### The Intern Employer/Supervisor



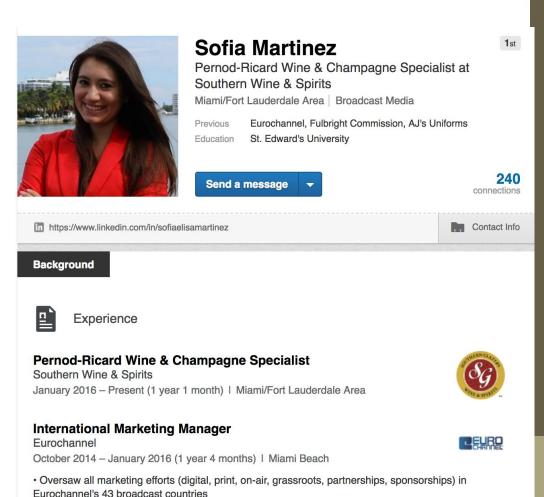
### The University



### Factors determining positive outcome as defined and ranked by INTERNS

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR:**

- 1. Global competencies development
- 2. Soft skill development
- 3. Application of studies (including language)
- 4. Comm & mentorship with supervisor
- 5. Meaningful work
- 6. Feedback
- 7. Building connections



### Factors determining positive outcomes for Intern SUPERVISORS

- Intern preparedness: (language, cultural)
- Intern dedication and effort (10-15 hrs wk)
- Being respectful of rules
- Trying to understand how organization works
- Help organization improve something
- Defined intern project & can work independently
- Relationship with university liaison(s)



### Factors determining positive outcomes for UNIVERSITY STAKEHOLDERS

"Students know what direction they want to go."

"Students & supervisor meet (via skype) before arrival."

"Clearly defined project & evaluation measures"

"Accessibility of supervisor"

"Willingness of student to devote time"



## 3 P's to Effective Int'l Internships... Start with the University

Program Development

Promotion



preparedness

### Program Development

- -intern objectives
- -projects
- -daily responsibilities
- -orientation/training
- -supervisory role

- -feedback & evaluation
- -policies/expectations
- -liaison system
- -exit strategies



### **Guiding Questions**

- Why do you want or need and intern?
- How could you best utilize an intern?
- What short and long term projects will the intern participate in or be responsible for?
- What will the intern's daily responsibilities be?
- What qualifications are needed to fulfill the project and responsibilities?
- How will a hiring decision by made (resume review? Interview? Preselected?)
- Who will provide an orientation and training for the intern? What will be included?
- Who will supervise the intern? (This should be someone who has the time, resources, and personality to manage a college intern, provide mentorship, and offer frequent feedback.)
- What criteria will be used to evaluate the intern and give feedback?
   How and when will feedback be given to the intern?
- Who will serve as the liaison to the university?
- What happens if the internship does not work or is not a good fit?

### Promotion Target: Students & Organizations

- University Liaison provide assistance in writing Internship Job Descriptions
- Sell the organization
- Sell the Internship
- Highlight requirements



### Effective Promotion leads to Internship Satisfaction and Effectiveness

#### **BEFORE:**

The City of Angers is looking for a university intern. The student filling this position will handle a wide range of important duties."

#### AFTER:

- The City of Angers is seeking a qualified intern who will
- assist with the logistics of an international summit of global leaders to discuss socioeconomic issues
- assist with a middle school festival to provide diversity and cultural richness by making a presentation (in English) about American culture
- welcome int'l high school groups to City Hall
- assist with the translation of Angers welcome guide from French to English
- attend weekly meetings with various city departments
- Qualifications: Intermediate fluency in French, good presentation skills, Motivated and professional.

P R O M O T I O N

internally



### 4 Keys to Preparedness

- 1. University-sponsored pre-intern program
- self-assessment and goal setting
- resume & cover letter design, video resume (duo-lingo)
- components of cultural competencies (seminar)
- •language geography (regions, mountains, cities) religion gov't •arts •social law currency •recent headlines •world issues impacting regions •concept of time, proxemics •body language •dress •business etiquette differences in how business is done

### Keys to Preparedness

- 2. Expectations of intern ... expect to
- feel confused
- feel lonely
- •feel your employer is insensitive
- •that rules will drive you cray-cray
- meet amazing people
- •miss it when you come home...



### Keys to Preparedness

3. Translate value of experience

on resume

interviews

4. Interactive discussion board

before

during

after



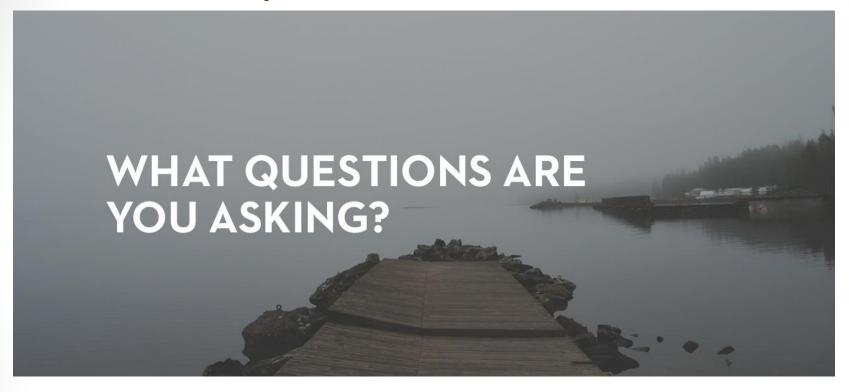
## It takes all 3 stakeholders to ensure an effective and satisfactory internship



#### Outcomes

- "Enhanced my professional French speaking skills."
- "Enhanced by confidence."
- "I acquired a profound sense of understanding and appreciation for foreign cultures. In particular, I learned ways others cultures work in a professional setting, how they interact socially (outside of work), employees' mindset and goals..."
- Enhanced my view as a global citizen, way beyond my Global Studies major!"
- Demonstrated my flexibility and ability to integrate with communities abroad."
- Gained a better understanding of American culture."
- "Makes me more marketable to future employers because international marketing is not always intuitive."
- "Helped me acquire the Fullbright."

#### Thank you and now ....



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