



UVA in Ghent:

Global Internships in Education, Society, and Human Services

Summer 2020

Internship position: Community development in occupational therapy practice and education

Organization/unit:

Department of Audiology, Speech and Language Therapy, and Occupational Therapy

Description of position/project:

- As services in health care need to move beyond the individualistic approach, occupational therapists consider community centered practices (such as community development) an essential domain in their practice (Leclair et al., 2016). In some parts of the world, community development is strongly embedded in occupational therapy practice, while elsewhere this approach is still emerging. The latter group of occupational therapists working in community development, expresses a feeling of unpreparedness. Many competencies taught within occupational therapy education are relevant for all domains of practice but some specific competencies are required within community development (Leclair et al., 2016).

The Department of Audiology, Speech and Language Therapy, and Occupational Therapy wants to study 1) which knowledge and skills are indispensable to occupational therapists in order to start working with and within the community 2) which of these knowledge and skills are missing in occupational therapy education 3) the added value of an occupational therapist working in community development according to team members (from other disciplines).

- During the first two weeks of the internship, the student will perform a literature study on this subject. This will lead to a list of topics which can be used in interviewing an occupational therapist, who works as a community developer. The literature study will continue until the fourth week.
- From the third week, the literature study will be combined with planning interviews and interviewing.
- In the final week the intern will write a paper summarizing his/her research.
- The research intern can expect to develop/learn the following:
 - Research skills
 - Working in an interdisciplinary team
 - Interviewing skills
 - organization and communication skills
 - critical thinking

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Contact the program director, Ingrid Hakala [ihm6t@virginia.edu], with specific questions



- Supervisors: Anne-Mie Engelen and Kristof Uvijn

Preferred qualifications:

UVA requirement: All candidates must be in good academic and disciplinary standing.

- Students from different schools and programmes in health, education, humanities, and social sciences are welcomed to apply.
- Given that experience with academic research is required, we prefer advanced undergraduate or graduate students.
- Basic knowledge of MS Office (Word, Outlook & Powerpoint)
- Other relevant qualifications/qualities include (among other things): knowledge of research methodologies, excellent writing skills, communication skills, ability to analyse critically, ability to think innovatively and design-oriented, planning and time management, independent worker and team player.

Language:

- Dutch is the language of the workplace but English is spoken and widely understood by HoGent community members. Selected students will be offered the opportunity to commence self-study of Dutch prior to their arrival in Belgium (during the Spring 2020) semester, as having even a basic knowledge of the language would be beneficial for daily life in Ghent.

More details:

- Working hours: M-F, likely 9am-5pm with lunch break but can be discussed with supervisor at beginning of internship period
- Dress code: Business casual (please be aware that many Europeans- both students and professionals- tend to dress more formally than their counterparts in the U.S.)
- Location: HoGent's Vesalius campus

Pre-internship preparation requirements:

- The intern will be asked to read some basic articles on community development and occupational therapy; these articles will be assigned in agreement between the intern and the supervisors.
- If not already acquired, the intern will have to practice basic interviewing skills.



Previous interns' reflections:



What was it like to do a global internship?

My experience as a research intern with the Mix! Diversity Centre research team at University College Ghent was wonderful! I enjoyed navigating the cultural difference and finding the similarities between my colleagues and myself. My research on super-diversity and inclusion was fulfilling and challenged me to think critically about the intersection of solidarity, citizenship, and nationalism. I also appreciated the opportunity to work independently and develop my skills in interdisciplinary literature review.

What advice would you give a prospective global intern?

Make time to explore the city you are living in during your global internship. It allows you to better immerse yourself in the language and culture of your new workplace. Rainy days in Ghent were common but still great

opportunities to experience the city in a different way! Understanding the history of Belgium was an important part of gaining an understanding of the socio-political climate of the country and how it impacted my research... at HoGent.

~BROOKE HABIT (Summer 2019)