



UVA in Ghent:

Global Internships in Education, Society, and Human Services

Summer 2020

Internship position: Professional Socialization and Identity

Organization/unit:

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Description of position/project:

- The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences is one of seven departments at the Faculty of Education, Health and Social Work. The faculty is located at four campuses in the city of Ghent. Students who are socially engaged, communicative and willing to dedicate themselves to helping others, opt for a study program at the faculty of Education, Health and Social Work.
- Professional socialization refers to the acquisition of values, attitudes, skills and knowledge pertaining to a professional subculture in both explicit and implicit ways. This process has been studied by sociologists for some years now, especially with regard to health care formations.

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences wants to study the differences and similarities in professional socialization across multiple formations in health and social work organized by our faculty (nursing, social work, social educational care work, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and audiology, nutrition and dietetics).

- During the first two weeks, the intern will perform a literature study on this subject. This will lead to a list of topics which can be used in interviewing staff teaching in some of the formations mentioned above. 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.
- Building on the work by last year's intern, we will focus on the notion of professional identity and the professional training of those in programmes related to nutrition and dietetics and occupational therapy.
- The research intern can expect to develop/learn the following:
 - Experience analyzing sociological literature
 - Research skills
 - Working in an interdisciplinary team
 - Interviewing skills



- Organization and communication skills
- Critical thinking

- Supervisor: David Van Bunder

Preferred qualifications:

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

- Student of Sociology; Anthropology; Global Culture & Commerce; Psychology; Global Studies; Philosophy; Literary & Cultural Studies; Political & Social Thought; Political Philosophy; Policy & Law; Sociology; Women; Gender & Sexuality; or other relevant discipline/programmes.
- 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 analyze 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
- 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 Schoonmeersen/Vesalius campus

Pre-internship preparation requirements:

- The intern will be asked to read some basic articles on professional socialization; 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 did you realize through your global internship?

In this trip, I have gained the ability to think outside of myself and my experiences, which seem so "right" and so "normal" that they have shaped my framework and how I look at other people. My water [i.e. my "culture"] that I am so used to living in and experiencing can lead me to come to incorrect conclusions. But through an emphasis on the reflective aspect of the learning process, I have come to realize just how unique my water really is. I like to think that I have gained a better understanding on how to process my perceptions and adapt to other types of water by going abroad. And in improving my ability to reflect, adapt and learn, I have no doubt that this will make finding my career path in this globalizing world a little easier than it would have been before.

~KENZA LO (Summer 2019)

