

Paris Internship Workforce Course - 2017

DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to provide the framework necessary for students to accomplish a successful inter-cultural internship. This framework includes both theoretical and practical elements, with both types of elements focused on helping students achieve the inter-cultural outcomes of a direct experience of the French workplace. Such outcomes are certainly feasible but are by no means automatic.

The course is split between two different types of sessions:

1. Sessions with practitioners and/or specialists of the French professional world. These representatives from specific sectors will come to speak about their field; general state of the field, specificities in France, recent developments, and their perspectives.
2. Participatory workshops. The practical portion of the course draws on IFE's experience in accompanying US university students on their exploration of French society via the professional world. As in any inter-cultural setting, and especially given the pressures inherent in work environments, examining and decoding behavior and interpersonal communication are important for avoiding misunderstandings and opening the way to real understanding. A series of workshop sessions draws on students' actual experiences and perceptions for role playing, small-group discussions, briefings/debriefings as a form of accompaniment of each student-intern throughout the internship period. Students will be assigned an ongoing reflective exercise to be conducted over the course of their 6 week internship. At the beginning of the session, each student will choose their preferred medium; an internship journal, photo essay, or digital story-telling. During the internship period they will present their work in progress, and at the end give a short oral presentation of their final project.

FACULTY

Course instructor: Timothy Carlson.

Timothy Carlson has been the co-director of IFE (Institute for Field Education) since 1995, where his particular responsibilities include relations with US institutions, program development and strategic planning. He holds a graduate degree in Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton. Moving to France in 1986, he has pursued various teaching and writing activities including teaching political philosophy at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris ("Sciences Po"), producing weekly electronic newsletters on science policy and other topics, carrying out international communication projects for French institutions in higher education and research, and pursuing independent research in science policy, economic development and the philosophy of economics.

Guest speakers:

Alice Bordaçarre: A graduate of the Institute of Higher European Studies in Strasbourg, France (2009), Alice Bordaçarre is a legal practitioner specializing in Human Rights. She has worked with several international organizations and NGOs, such as Human Rights Watch, the Council of Europe and the Center for Women's Rights. She has been working for the French NGO "Ligue des droits de l'Homme" (Human Rights League) for four years. She is also a member of the trade union "ASSO", representing workers of the not-for-profit sector.

Clemence Imbert: Clemence Imbert is an art and design teacher and researcher at the University Paris 8. With a background in French Literature, she has worked as a curatorial assistant at the Centre Pompidou (Paris) and at the Guggenheim Museum (New York). She is currently writing her PhD. dissertation on graphic design exhibitions in modern art museums.

Thomas Maitre: A graduate of the Audencia School of Management in Nantes, Thomas Maitre also studied at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore. After having worked for Orange Business Services, he founded two start-ups: Vizir.co (a tool for creating on-line questionnaires) and LeSmartWeb.com (development of digital solutions for small businesses).

COURSE OUTLINE

There are a total of 11,5 hours of classroom time, or 9 sessions of 1/1.5 hours each.

TUESDAY MAY 9, 2017: 2 PM-3:30 PM - Session 1 – Workshop 1 (Tim Carlson)

Theoretical presentation of inter-cultural issues, including role-playing and practicing typical situations focusing on the main cultural differences between France and the United States.

TUESDAY MAY 23: 4 PM-5 PM – Session 2 – Guest Speaker 1

→ Start-ups in France: a comparison between the American and French systems – Thomas Maître

TUESDAY JUNE 6: 4:30PM/6 PM - Session 3 – Workshop 2 (Tim Carlson)

The Internship - Consultation and advice: What to do, what not to do.

Role playing, addressing fears (best/worst case scenarios), choosing form of internship reflection assignment

MONDAY, JUNE 12: BEGINNING OF THE INTERNSHIP

TUESDAY JUNE 13: 1 PM/2 PM - Session 4 – Guest Speaker 2

→ Arts and Culture in France: the role of the State and the rise of the private sector - Clemence Imbert

TUESDAY JUNE 20: 1 PM/2:30 PM - Session 5 – Workshop 3 (Tim Carlson)

Debriefing, evaluation, collective self-evaluations.

Round tables on specific situations: communication/miscommunication ; success/failure ; cross-cultural observations, etc.

TUESDAY JUNE 27: 1 PM-2 PM – Session 6 - Guest Speaker 3

→ Higher Education in France: structure and dynamics - TBD

TUESDAY JULY 4: 1 PM/2:30 PM - Session 7 – Workshop 4 (Tim Carlson)

Debriefing, evaluation, collective self-evaluations.

Mid-term presentations on reflective assignments.

Between Sessions 7 and 8 – On-Site Evaluation conducted with the student-intern and their host organization mentor.

TUESDAY JULY 11: 1 PM-2 PM - Session 8 - Guest Speaker 4

→ Not-for-profit organizations, NGOs and Human rights in France: Alice Bordaçarre

TUESDAY JULY 18: 1 PM/2:30 PM - Session 9 – Workshop 5 (Tim Carlson)

Conclusions: (Performance, points of improvement, lessons learned).

The internship and beyond: reflective exercises (resume building, assessing skills and outcomes, advice for future interns)

Reflective assignments handed in / individual presentations

FRIDAY, JULY 21: END OF THE INTERNSHIP

GRADING: In addition to the grade assessed for the internship per se, students will receive a grade for the workforce course, as described herein. The reflective paper will count for 50% of this grade, class attendance 30%, and participation 20%. The French grading scale of 20 will be used. Students enroll on a P/NP basis and must receive a grade of at least 10/20 in order to receive a grade of pass. The attendance portion of the grade sanctions both absences and tardiness. In addition, students with more than two unexcused absences from class sessions will be expelled from the course.