

# Internship

## Internship

An internship at Freie Universität Berlin offers pupils, students, trainees, and people just entering the workforce the opportunity to gain professional knowledge and experience. It helps them to get to know work processes and to get an idea of what it is like to work in a particular field of work. The acquisition of soft skills also plays an important role. An internship offers the opportunity to acquire or deepen non-specialist qualifications such as the ability to work in a team, motivation or stress resistance.

There are basically three different types of internships:

- Voluntary internships that serve as an orientation for vocational training or for starting university studies
- Voluntary internships that accompany vocational training or higher education programs
- Compulsory internships required by regulations, legal provisions, or codes governing primary or secondary education, apprenticeships or training programs, higher education or training at a legally regulated university of cooperative education (*Berufsakademie*)

Voluntary internships can be done before, during or after an educational or training program at a secondary school, vocational school, or university. They can be completed in a company, a government office, or another institution. This type of internship is not required by the regulations at a school, training facility, or university. The focus is on the transfer of professional knowledge, skills, and experience, not on the work performance. The internship serves the purpose of overall training and does not involve systematic vocational training. Rights and obligations arise from the internship agreement and, with restrictions, from the Vocational Training Act (BBiG).

The provisions of the BBiG do not apply to students who complete a compulsory internship as stipulated in the study and examinations regulations. Students doing these types of internships are subject to the rules of the study and internship regulations and other state-level regulations. The same applies to compulsory internships at the secondary school level. In this case, the internship is a school event that is held at a company or government office, which then serves as the place of instruction. Secondary school students retain their status as pupils and are subject to school law. You can find more information under [Internships for School Pupils](#).

Accordingly, the central criterion for an internship is the transfer of professional knowledge, skills, and experience.

Please send any questions you may have to:

Department I – Personnel

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