

# Behavioural scientists at your service – internship request

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY | LUND UNIVERSITY



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## – internship request

The Bachelor's programme in behavioural science at Lund University is the first of its kind in Sweden to include internship as part of the programme. The internship course has been included in the programme since 2011 and has received positive feedback from both the interns themselves and the host organisations. The internship provides students with an opportunity, at the end of their studies, to develop relevant skills for the labour market and, not least, an opportunity to put theories and methods of behavioural science into practice. It is also a golden opportunity for the host organisation to connect with skilled people in their professional field who are about to graduate.

### ABOUT THE BACHELOR'S PROGRAMME IN BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE

The programme provides students with interdisciplinary expertise in behavioural science, as they can combine courses in any of the main fields of psychology, sociology, and education with several specific areas, such as personality and developmental psychology, social interaction, motivation and stress, globalisation, welfare and development issues, organisational and leadership development, communication and marketing, learning and professional development, health and illness, discussion and interview techniques, recruitment, criminology and deviant behaviour, gender and diversity, etc. The programme also enables the students to develop their independence, capability to work in teams, skills within coordination and project management, and to provide them with the tools they need for analysis and evaluation. Specifically, the students develop useful expertise for working at both a strategic and an operational level.

### HOW CAN THE STUDENT CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR ORGANISATION?

If you are interested in hosting one or more interns you will gain a staff member who is specialised in one of the subject fields of education, psychology, or sociology. By the time of the internship, the student will have completed at least 90 credits (equivalent to one and a half years of full-time studies), including 60 credits in their main field, which means that they will bring new and up-to-date knowledge with them to your organisation.

### WHAT DOES THE INTERNSHIP REQUIRE?

In order to be registered on the internship course, students must be able to present an organisation that can offer them an internship. The internship can be conducted within a public or private organisation, as well as within social movement or non-profit organisations in Sweden or abroad.

### FOR THE INTERNSHIP PROVIDER, THIS MEANS THAT...

- a representative at the organisation is to fill in an agreement about hosting the intern and provide a brief account of the main duties involved in the internship. The agreement form can be downloaded from our website.
- the intern's duties are to clearly relate to his or her behavioural sciences expertise. The specific duties may vary and be adapted to the intern's and the host organisation's requests. In case of any uncertainty about what to include in the internship agreement, there will be opportunities to discuss the content of the internship with the internship coordinator.
- the intern is to be provided with a physical work space and an appointed supervisor throughout the semester.
- the intern is to comply with the structure and working hours of the host organisation. Furthermore, the intern is to be given the opportunity for a comprehensive understanding of the entire organisation, for instance, in case of a municipal government organisation, the intern should be offered to visit other administrative offices as well.
- after the internship has been completed, the host organisation is to issue a simple certificate confirming that the student has completed an internship within your organisation, including a brief account of the duties performed. The student is to be able to include this certificate in their CV.



### INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

In addition to participating in the daily activities of the internship organisation, the intern is to be assigned a specific individual task. This is to be a cohesive assignment to be solved by the student independently under supervision. The task must include both an academic and practical perspective, for which the University provides academic supervision and the internship organisation provides supervision of a more work-related nature.

The individual assignment can either be proposed by the student, or by you as something you wish to have investigated or supported in other ways. It can be a completely freestanding task, or part of a larger project. In short, it can be any limited task that can be carried out within the scope of the internship period, in addition to the other duties involved in the internship.

The assignment could, for instance, involve the intern producing documentation, writing a report, preparing and/or conducting a survey/course/lecture. The internship could also consist of learning about different parts of the organisation concerned or executing a project together with other professional groups. The options of choice are numerous! Behavioural scientists are highly qualified to practise their skills in a number of operational and strategic areas. The assignment is to be summarised by the intern in a report presented to the organisation, at a seminar on the course, as well as during a final conference day on the course – the BiP Day (Behavioural scientists in practice), to which all host organisations and other interested parties are invited. The internship report is the basis for assessment of the course.

In addition to the individual assignment and regular attendance at the host organisation, the intern is to participate in a number of seminars conducted via an online course website. This participation should be taken into account when planning the internship period. The seminars are expected to take up approximately half a day per week on average, but the specific times and circumstances are to be determined in consultation with the host organisation.

The topics of the seminars will include professional ethics as well as results and evaluation, which can further sharpen the interns' expertise at their host organisations.



#### WHAT DOES THE SUPERVISION ENTAIL?

- The supervisor is to give the intern an introduction to the workplace, be available to support the intern in their work, and help solve various types of problems that the intern may face during their internship.
- The supervisor is also to provide directions and instructions with regard to different duties, allowing the intern to solve these independently, after which they are to be followed up by the supervisor.
- The supervision is to encourage the intern to independently find possible solutions, but also provide an opportunity for them to seek advice in case of a problem. It is important that the supervisor is available to the intern to discuss his or her work and follow up on their fields/cases by participating in the daily work in various ways.
- Apart from the regular everyday contact with the intern, the supervision is to include three predetermined supervisor meetings: at the start, midway through, and at the end of the internship period. These meetings are to be designed in accordance with the planning meetings or staff appraisals that often take place in a professional context, giving both the intern and the supervisor a chance to discuss the internship process, the work placement, and the work performed, as well as to follow up on the set objectives.

#### SUPERVISION SUPPORT

We will provide the supervisor with a simple form with assessment criteria to be used in their supervision. This form is designed to help the internship provider and the student review the assessment criteria for the corresponding learning outcomes on the course.

The intern is assigned an academic supervisor at the University to support the intern in case of issues of a more theoretical nature or to improve the academic quality of the work performed in the workplace.

All supervisors will be contacted regularly throughout the course by the intern's academic supervisor. This regular contact has the purpose of establishing a good relationship, reviewing the course syllabus and objectives that apply for the student, providing support in the supervision if necessary, or giving advice about other things that you as an internship provider need to know. This contact takes place mainly over the telephone and via email.

#### WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

We at the behavioural science programme are always available to support you as an internship provider if you have any questions or comments on the content or on practical matters. Our hope and ambition is for you to feel that the reward outweighs the effort, and that the time invested in the intern will be valuable in numerous ways.

#### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

For offering an internship to a behavioural scientist, or for any questions concerning the internship, please contact our Course Director and Internship Coordinator Ingela Steij Stålbrand at +46 (0)72 72 73 031 or [Ingela.Steij\\_Stalbrand@psy.lu.se](mailto:Ingela.Steij_Stalbrand@psy.lu.se)

Website: [www.psy.lu.se/samverkan/verksamhetsforlagd-utbildning/beteendevetare-i-praktiken](http://www.psy.lu.se/samverkan/verksamhetsforlagd-utbildning/beteendevetare-i-praktiken)



[www.psy.lu.se/bvp](http://www.psy.lu.se/bvp)

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