

# Communication profile internship



Master's programme in Biomedical Sciences

**Radboudumc**  
university medical center

## Profile internship

A profile internship is one that is related to the learning objectives associated with your profile and has a size of  $\geq 30$  EC (= five months full-time). If you have chosen for a communication profile, then you will be developing and evaluating a communication strategy to inform specific target groups about scientific insights or writing articles to inform the general public about biomedical research.

## Finding a place

In principle, you are to arrange your internship yourself. An internship becomes presumably more worthwhile when you are truly motivated to work on it. Therefore, you ought to spend a great deal of effort on finding a place that suits you. This means that it is up to you to identify suitable workplaces, contact potential supervisors, and negotiate your assignment. Of course, your mentor and/or profile coordinator is there to support you. At least, you should timely consult with him or her in order to assess the appropriateness of your plans.

Here are a few tips for arranging an internship:

1. Developing a vision on what you want to learn and do helps to find a suitable internship. You ought to read the papers to identify issues that interest you and companies and institutes that are involved.
2. When you have identified a suitable company or institute, you do well investing time in finding the right person to address. Ideally, this is someone who both knows what projects there are you could participate in and is in a position to appoint you. Often, you may find this person by browsing the website. Alternatively, mentors, profile coordinators, or your tutors may know him or her. It is at this point that you could greatly benefit from the network you started to grow by joining research groups and being visible to other professionals. Usually, it is rather ineffective to address human affairs departments.
3. If you write an application letter or e-mail, please ensure that its tone is appropriate, i.e. sufficiently formal. Moreover, you should help hosting organisations establishing an internship by explaining what kind of project you should like to participate in. Of course, your ability to do so is also indicative of your interest. This implies that you have surveyed the companies or institutes you would like to work for.
4. Please allow *at least* three months for arranging a national internship and six months for arranging an international internship. In addition, allow sufficient time for the profile coordinator, as well as the Board of Examiners, to review your proposal.
5. If you plan to go abroad for an internship, you should consult with the Radboudumc International Office about the practicalities involved: funding, housing, visa, and so forth.

The internship host organisation does not need to be a biomedical institute or company, as long as it allows you to work on a biomedical topic and achieve the learning objectives of the communication profile internship.

## Supervision

One person working for the internship host institution or company should be assigned as your daily supervisor. The supervisor should be available for asking questions and regular meetings to discuss the progress of the internship project. The daily supervisor is also the contact person for the profile coordinator. If there are any problems that arise during the internship, the profile coordinator or mentor could be asked to mediate.

## Internship agreement and proposal

The content, host institution or company, supervisor and plan of action need to be described in an internship proposal ([Please click here to download forms requested by the Board of Examiners](#)). In this document the research question(s), method(s) and plan of action should be described adequately. The objectives of the internship should be clear and the used methodology, for example a literature study or interviews, needs to be explained. Although it is not always possible to give a detailed planning before starting the internship, it is important to give an overview of the different steps that you need to take during the project. And certain tasks (e.g. writing the final report, preparing the final presentation) will always be part of an internship and need to be scheduled.

The internship proposal should be sent to the profile coordinator for approval. When the proposal is accepted, it is signed by the profile coordinator, your mentor and yourself. An updated version of your study plan, with the signed internship proposal as an attachment, can be submitted by dropping it in the mailbox at the StIP. You are well advised to submit this updated version of your study plan three months before the start of the internship. This will leave sufficient time to adjust your plan should the Board of Examiners disapprove. The Board of Examiners will provide reasons for such disapproval, so you will be able to find alternatives.

For internships at departments outside the Radboudumc an internship agreement is required for liability and insurance purposes. Your mentor can provide an internship agreement for internships outside the Radboudumc in case the host institution or company does not supply one.

## Learning objectives

### ***General objectives pertaining to internships***

The student is able to...

1. Plan and manage a project
2. Conduct him- \herself properly when meeting stakeholders
3. Improve him- \herself on the basis of feedback and self-reflection

### ***Specific objectives pertaining to communication profile internships***

The student is able to...

1. Analyse the societal context of a communicative problem and on this basis explain the relevance of a communicative intervention.
2. Consult with a client to define the goal of a communicative intervention, and on this basis develop a clear and feasible project that should help to realize this goal.

3. Identify and employ appropriate communicative models, instruments, methods, and theories.
4. Explain how communicative interventions match the needs, perspectives, characteristics, and contexts of target groups.
5. Demonstrate how the quality and effectiveness of communicative interventions can be improved.
6. Report the results of a communicative project in a way that is scientifically sound, to all persons involved.
7. Work in an organization with a specific structure and culture without compromising his/her own integrity and expertise.
8. Deliver a concise, persuasive, and transparent oral presentation to communicate his/her findings to persons involved.

## Language of the final report

The final report may be written in either Dutch or English, depending on the expectations of the internship host institution. But if you write your report in Dutch, we ask you to provide an English summary.

## Structure of the final report

The structure of the report is determined in consultation with the internship supervisor, but must be of the level that can be expected from a Master's student in Biomedical Sciences. This means that statements in the report are scientifically founded as far as possible, provided with citations from primary sources, substantively in-depth and written in a clear, formal style. Although the structure of the report can be determined in accordance with the internship supervisor, it is preferable to maintain the IMRAD structure (Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion / conclusion). For example, if you have developed a communication strategy you can write about the goal and relevant background knowledge for the strategy (introduction), how you developed the strategy (methods; e.g. did you conduct semi-structured interviews? Organized a focus group? Performed a literature search? Searched for examples of communication strategies?), describe your findings and the products that you have developed (results), and discuss the strengths, limitations and suggestions for future research and development (discussion).

In the case of an internship that only concerns the writing and design of communication products (e.g. a science journalism internship) the final report consists of a description of the internship organization, their way of doing things, and the activities that you have performed. An analysis of the creation of one of the communication products could also be described. For example, when writing a news article: how did you collect and select the required scientific information? How did you translate this information to make it comprehensible for the audience? The communication products that the student has produced during the internship can also be added as attachments to the report.

## Assessment

When you have completed your internship, you should ask your daily supervisor to fill out the assessment form [\(Please click here to download forms requested by the Board of Examiners\)](#). You should send (by mail) the assessment form with the product of your internship (the final report) to the profile coordinator (Gert Jan van der Wilt), who will determine your final grade. Please contact him to make an appointment as soon as you are reasonably certain that your assessment form and report will be available.