



Applying for a research internship

Information for students

What is a research internship?

- A research internship implies that you combine your master thesis with doing research for a host organization. It gives you practical experience and helps to develop your CV, or puts you on track of a job!
- A research internship has two objectives: 1. contribute to state-of-the-art scientific knowledge, 2. help the host organization answer managerial or policy-related questions.
- During a research internship, you collect and analyze data, and also report to the organization. The academic thesis remains your key deliverable; the host organization has to agree with this in advance. A research internship is NOT a classical internship in which you perform regular work activities.
- In principle, a research internship can be planned in the period of February to June for an average of 2 – 2.5 days per week. However, deviations are possible depending on your availability, and in consultation with the host organization and your U.S.E. thesis supervisor.

How do I find a research internship?

- *Option 1:* You may organize a research internship yourself. The internship should meet the requirements outlined next.
- *Option 2:* Apply for a research internship position offered by U.S.E.. From our social networks we regularly receive requests for interns. In the third or fourth week of November all master programs organize a kick-off. Some professors will offer research internships with a company, start-up, NGO or government organization. You can simply apply for such a position, provided that you meet the requirements (e.g., some organizations can only host Dutch students, require advanced econometric skills, etc.). The selection process is competitive as usually several students apply. The selection process may also include a job interview with the host organization.

No guarantee!

- We certainly encourage you to do an internship, and do our best to accommodate your wishes, but can provide no guarantees. A research internship should be organized in such a way that you can do 1. Scientific research 2. On a topic relevant to your master's program 3. Within the timeframe of the thesis process 4. With the availability and approval of your U.S.E. thesis supervisor.
- Some supervisors at U.S.E. offer well-defined thesis topics that cannot be combined with any kind of internship. For example, some thesis topics are offered together with a particular dataset that the student will analyze. In such cases the supervisor may not be available to supervise a research internship – so it is recommend to check this in advance at the thesis kick-off meeting.

Organize a research internship yourself (option 1)

A research internship application should always meet the following minimum requirements:

- The internship is done at an external host organization, which may be a company, NGO, government organization, or other institution.
- You do a research project not only in the interest of the host organization, but also contributing to state-of-the-art scientific knowledge in the domain of your master program.
- The host organization provides an internal supporter. S/he supports your research internship by providing feedback, connects you with relevant data/sources/interviewees, and provides us with input to grade your thesis. Most important is that the supervisor will be responsive to questions if any problems arise.
- The research can be done within the time restrictions of your MSc program. The internship should be finished in June. The internship may take longer, but then the process should be organized in such a way that you can finish your thesis at the end of June.

If you are interested in organizing a research internship:

- Please contact your thesis program coordinator: see hereafter. S/he can provide you with an information package for the host organization that you have in mind. Also, you can consult him/her about the typical organizations that are a good match for a research internship.
- The host organization is asked to provide a one-pager including company information, the context of the internship, and an initial problem statement or research question.
- The coordinator will help you to fine-tune the internship proposal, and ensure it can meet U.S.E.'s standards. Or s/he may immediately connect you with a U.S.E. thesis supervisor to delegate this task.
- Please notice that your research internship can only start with the approval of your U.S.E. thesis supervisor. We occasionally have to reject applications – when the host organization poses a problem that cannot be turned into an academic problem, requires the student to do regular work, or requires expertise that is not a match with U.S.E.'s domain.
- As soon as a thesis supervisor has been assigned to you, you can discuss research internships opportunities with him/her rather than with the thesis program coordinator.
- You should apply for and have fully explored your research internship opportunities before the start of period 3 (i.e. early February). Thus, the internship has to be approved by your thesis supervisor before the start of period 3.

Thesis program coordinators

Banking & Finance: Dirk Gerritsen (d.f.gerritsen@uu.nl)

Business Development & Entrepreneurship: Coen Rigtering (j.p.c.rigtering@uu.nl)

Economic Policy: Joras Ferwerda (j.ferwerda@uu.nl)

Financial Management: Dirk Gerritsen (d.f.gerritsen@uu.nl)

International Management: Hein Roelfsema (h.j.roelfsema@uu.nl)

Law & Economics: Stephanie Rosenkranz (s.rosenkranz@uu.nl)