



## Academic and administrative rules for internship

ESA is unusual in that it has mandatory periods of practical training from the start of the first year. Practical internships allow the discovery and the practice of the professional world.

- to enhance learning in the practice setting, to serve as the “lab portion” of their design studies,
- to identify in practice the different components of the architectural discipline, and the relative influences between theoretical and practical aspects,
- to understand the realm of different professions, knowledge and regulations implied in real practice that academic curriculum did not emphasise,
- to discover different attitudes, tendencies, behaviours in professional practice,
- to investigate all activities that take place before and after the actual project,

→ For all these reasons ESA has decided to give an important place to professional practice through internship: the student has to go through an amount of 9 months of internship, in the way of 3 periods of 1 month (minimum) for the Licence (during the intersemester of each 3 first years), and for the Master, one period of 2 months and a final 4 months internship just before the diploma, in fifth year.

During the 3 first years it is recommended to discover the whole realm of knowledge and procedures architecture is concerned with, both within and through out of the conception and the building process; seeking a variety of assignments that require gathering of information from various persons and sources within the practice setting: i.e., the programming or the analysis of the use of the building or building site...

In the first years it is highly recommended not to endeavour in an architect’s office, where the student won’t be of much help, but to try to find a job concerned either with the social and economical aspect of urban planning or the material aspects of building sites.

But it is also critical that students move gradually toward employment in a design setting. Obtaining the benefits of concurrent academic and practice learning requires that students be working for design firms under the guidance of licensed design professionals. Hence the fourth and fifth year students are asked to participate fully in the project methodology in an architect’s office.

The practical training office helps finding jobs, collects the reports and supervises the grades, but the real supervisor of the practice is the architectural teacher of the studio. He is supposed to define the goals of each internship and help the student make the right choices and even eventually help him out or control the internship during its evolution.

Data of different firms and organizations that progressively welcome our students are recorded in files that facilitate future research and extend the realm of ESA's friends or supports.

## **Timing :**

### **Defining and finding the Internship**

The supervisor (studio teacher) and the student define goals and orientations together (November or May). Either one or the other proposes a firm or organisation to be contacted and the protocol is signed (December or June).

### **Following through** (January and February, or July and August)

The supervisor has to make sure everything is in order and that the student gives satisfaction, and in reciprocity he asks the student if the firm gives him interesting tasks.

### **Training course report** (March or September)

At the end of the internship, the student shall have to hand out a report concerning his internship. The report shall be given to the training office within a month after the end of the training course period.

It is a something like a twenty pages illustrated report that tells about this experience outside the school; it can be organized as follow:

- Introduction, goals and method of enquiry
- Presentation of the firm or organization
- Everyday work commented
- Conclusion, personal evaluation of work

### **Evaluation** (May or November)

The firm reports on the student's activity and attests that the internship has taken place in regular conditions.

The student gives his report to the practical training office, and possibly one to the firm. The report is corrected by the professor in charge of the intern's education at ESA.