

University Writing Program
Thailand: Environment, Green Tech, & Sustainability Internships
Special Summer Session 2022

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198 SYLLABUS

Introduction to the course

While all of you are enrolled in some section of EAP 192, and will have very different experiences in your individual placements, yet you are all in the same boat: you already share a concern for the health of the planet and you'll have in common the experience of launching into the global workplace to do something about it. All of you will be finding out something about the relationship between your ideas about the environment and practical solutions addressing what harms it.

Writing is a way of processing as well as a way of capturing experiences. I've designed a series of assignments, not to test you, but to give you structure for both. The assignments ask you to consider your experience in relation to your goals and ideas, yourself in relation to others, and academic in relation to a worksite experience.

Assignments

The Individual Reflective Essays are designed to help you consider your experience in terms of your personal and professional development. The Discussion Board posts and responses are set up for you compare your experiences with others'. The activities are *progressive* and *cumulative*, that is, the eight assignments build on each other and they will add up to an overall view of the impact of your internship experience on your understanding of yourself in the global workplace and on your understanding of the relationship between environmentalist theory and environmental practice.

Participating in these activities will

- help you better understand what kind of work best meets your goals
- help the EAP shape the virtual internship program in ways that best serve students' needs
- leave you with a record of your internship experience from which you can draw in the future

Grading

UWP 198 can only be taken Pass/No Pass. To pass, you must complete each of the writing assignments, post them on Canvas by the due date, and engage your fellow interns via the Discussions feature with both posts and responses.

Due Dates will be set up in Canvas by the time the course begins, but generally, you'll have one or two tasks each week: either discussion posts midweek and responses by the end of the week, or reflective essays due at the end of the weekend.

Assignment Descriptions

Reflective Essay 1: Why you are here 1

Consider: What motivated you to apply for an Environment, Green Tech & Sustainability internship?

- What convinced you to take up an environmentally-oriented career path?
- What academic experiences in particular have influenced your thinking?
- What do you hope to get out of this internship in terms of your environmentalist principles?

About your experiences so far:

Given your interview and your initial week of work, what aspects of your internship do you think could lead to some fulfillment of your hopes and expectations?

Write a short, 200-300 word discussion of:

- What kind of placement you were hoping for
- The ways your given placement might be an avenue to what you hope to accomplish environmentally

Discussion 1: What's happening 1

POST a 100- to 200-word story that shows you being surprised about your supervisor's and co-workers expectations. Make yourself the main character in the story by telling it in the first person. Consider in particular the contrast between the way your coursework has been structured and the way your internship work is structured--what kinds of guidance are you used to getting from you instructors, on one hand, and what are you getting from your supervisors, on the other hand? Following the story, offer a short paragraph that reflects on how it feels to encounter such differences.

RESPOND to two other interns' stories and reflections. What do you notice about the strategies the writer used to adjust to a new situation? Responses should be at least 50 words, can be up to 200 words

Reflective Essay 2: Why you are here 2

First, what have you been doing? Catalogue the kinds of tasks that you have been given to do in the first three weeks of your internship (projects you've begun, meetings or trainings you've attended, etc.)

Second, taking a deeper dive into the question of what motivated you to apply to the GT&SE program, consider what principles of environmentalism you follow. In your enrollment applications some of you used terms like "sustainable development goals" and "sustainable

practices,” or more specifically, referred to “energy sustainability” or “sustainable versions of everyday items.” Those terms refer to what you think humans should be doing. But why? A ‘should’ implies an ethics, a set of principles. What are yours? Where do they come from? What inspired them?

Write 100 to 200- words reflecting, *in relation to those principles*, on the following questions:

What does the company you work for do and why?

What motivates its leaders?

Does the company’s work correlate with your environmental principles?

What is the specific work that you’ve been given to do?

Do some aspects of the work the company does or the work you do conflict with your ideals?

What kinds of compromises do you see being made?

What kinds of compromises are you having to make?

Discussion 2: What’s happening 2

POST a story about a piece of work that you’ve been engaged in during your internship so far—how it was assigned, how you began on it, any setbacks you’ve encountered so far, how or if you overcame them. Make communication the focus. Did you encounter culturally different communication conventions from your own? Some possible situations to show:

--receiving instructions

--explaining something you have done or want to do

--asking for clarification or information

Then offer a short paragraph in which you reflect on how you handled the communication.

RESPOND to two other interns’ stories and reflections.

What do you notice about the rules of communication the speakers in the story are following?

Reponses should be at least 50 words, can be up to 200 words

Reflective Essay 3: Progress report to self

First, looking back to Reflective Essay 1 and 2 and to the things you were doing in the first weeks of your internship, describe how you feel you have progressed.

Second, consider what has made progression possible and how your actions and attitudes have hindered or helped your progress.

Have you used all of the resources available to you?

What have you learned about yourself in terms of flexibility?

What have you learned you don’t know that you need to know?

In what ways has your cultural background shaped the kind of contributor you have been?

Write a 100- to 200-word evaluation of your performance so far. Give yourself praise and be honest about your shortcomings.

Discussion 3: What has happened/Registering change

One of the hardest things to do is engage in a situation where you don't know the rules. You did that by signing up for this global internship program! By now, you may have made some adjustments in response to different cultural expectations.

POST a 100- to 200- word story that shows you learning to do something differently in your internship.

RESPOND to two other interns' stories and reflections. How did it feel to read each one? Did the other intern's story change your sense of your own uncertainty?

Reponses should be at least 50 words, can be up to 200 words.

Reflective Essay 4: What has happened/Results

Eight weeks is not very long for professional work projects, but it is to be hoped that you can point to some concrete pieces of work. Perhaps you brought a project to a new stage. Perhaps you helped create a system or you established a format for tracking ongoing work. Make a list of all your activities in as concrete of terms as you can. (For example, "Created flow chart" is more concrete than "assisted in organizing," and "compiled data *used for...*" is more concrete than just "compiled data"). Further, since the work you do in your internship might not correlate exactly to the work you hope to do in the future, make another list, maybe in an adjacent column, of the skills you demonstrated in the process. Finally, consider how you feel about the kinds of work that you got to do.

Write 100 to 200 words describing a specific task you brought to completion—from beginning to end—and what that task shows about the skills you possess.

Include a final paragraph on what you've learned about what kinds of work you like and don't like, what you've learned about what you will pursue in the future. Have you come to a different understanding of your environmental goals and how you are going to fulfill them?

Discussion 4: What just happened?

Post a story of whatever length that shows what has happened to you as a result of your having enrolled in an internship program. Consider as a point of reference the "Global Learning Blog" at <https://globallearning.ucdavis.edu/news/blog>. Those posts are either written by students on study abroad programs in other countries or by Study Abroad staff. Having yours published would be on your resume! In addition to posting your story to the Discussion Board in Canvas, consider also submitting it to the Global Learning Hub. Instructions to come.

RESPOND to each other's stories. Reflect back to two students what it is about their stories that would be useful to future interns.