

The Vesalius Internship Programme (VIP)



The Vesalius Internship Programme enables students to gain professional experience while earning academic credit at one of our prestigious partner organisations in Brussels, ranging from multinational corporations, banks, consulting firms, think tanks and media houses to government institutions and non-governmental organisations.

Why is the Vesalius Internship Programme unique?

1. **Gain professional experience while earning academic credit.** The internship counts as a semester-long academic course (students receive 6 ECTS/3 US credits), and can be taken as a Major Elective. For the internship, students must work a minimum of 150 hours; however, study abroad students may opt to extend their internship in order to work more hours per week (this is called the Double Internship). At the end of the internship, students will write a 3000-word report on their experience.
2. **A 'soft entry' into the job market.** Students will be assigned to an internship supervisor in the company who will provide guidance and assess the student on their progress. Since the internship is an academic course, students will also be assigned to an internship advisor, a Vesalius College professor, who will evaluate the student's work in the internship and can provide additional guidance. This gives students a smooth, guided transition into the working world.
3. **A 'test run' of a future career.** An internship allows students to see how a career in a particular field would be. This helps them to make well-informed decisions - based on experience - related to their future career or graduate studies.
4. **Make yourself more 'marketable.'** By doing an internship at the undergraduate level, students distinguish themselves from the competition - especially from students who have no professional experience at the time of graduation. Students show that they are able to balance their academic and professional commitments, and that they are hard working and self-motivated. Moreover, for students not from Belgium, working in a foreign country will further help to set you apart.
5. **Network on a global level.** Brussels is a global hub for business and politics, and is home to many mobile expatriates from around the world. Thus, interns can begin to develop a network that is international, extending beyond their home country. Students can also expand their future professional contacts by interacting with junior as well as senior professionals from around the globe.