

Online Journalism Internship

Internal good practice, Crossing Borders.

Why is this internship important?

Our journalism internship has been an ongoing programme for a while and it aims at empowering young writers from all over the world to learn with their peers, build a solid professional and international network, and have a platform to be published.

Who makes it? What is done?

The internship has been coordinated by CB staff members who have knowledge within the journalism/communication area. After a call for participants is put online, the applications are reviewed based on willingness to learn and to write. The internship has a flexible duration: interns are supposed to have written 8-10 articles by the end of the internship but because of time constriction, the schedule is often adapted to suit the interns' needs. The structure of the internship is the following: the interns are first asked to write something of their choice, and then follow three modules: investigative journalism, interview, and content writing and social media (a new addition to the curriculum). They are organized in two groups that start in two different modules and they have to write individually and with their teammates. The modules are introduced by providing interns with sources, texts, and pedagogic material for new

writers; the material is then discussed online and the interns proceed to write their articles within the module. The internship is done exclusively online, using Facebook, Skype, and GoogleDrive. Facebook is used for fast communication, Skype for regular meetings, and GoogleDrive to store and edit the articles. The internship follows a structure of reading – writing – discussion – editing – publishing; all the interns are involved in every step of the way, making comments and helping their peers write better articles.

The social media content will be taught not by the internship supervisor, but by other CB volunteers and interns who have a background on social media or have received training for that (for example, via our HyperYouth3000 programme), creating a chain of empowerment.

Since when?

Since July 2015 until now (this edition of the internship, which is the 3rd).

Target groups, national, international or local focus?

Our target groups are young writers and journalists from all over the world.

Digital aspects of good practice

The digital aspects of our internship are exactly what makes it unique. The whole internship is done online and facilitated by free online tools. The more used ones are: Facebook, for fast communication, arranging meetings, making comments on the learning material, brainstorming; Skype, used for meetings; Google Drive, used as an archive for learning material and for the

articles written, and to make comments, criticism and editing on articles. All interns have access to the Drive folder and they are highly encouraged to comment on each others' pieces to improve as a group.

Facts of method

4 participants (per internship)

Target groups

Young writers and journalists

Since July 2015

1 staff involved

4 participants from 4 countries

Link to method: •

<http://crossingborders.dk/internship-in-crossing-borders-for-young-journalists-and-writers-summer-2015/>

Pedagogic aspects of good practice

The point of the internship is to empower the interns. They are the ones managing their time, deciding their schedule and picking their themes. Online team-building has also proved effective as the interns now have had several meetings on their own without the coordinator, showing that they are getting to know each other and networking.

Strength, weakness, opportunities and threats of good practice

Strength

The interns feel empowered by having published pieces and freedom to write about what they want, and CB's website gets new articles every other week covering a variety of topics.

Weakness

The fact that the internship is quite flexible can lead to some delays, which can make CB's website seem outdated

Opportunities

Publish the articles in a physical format to give interns something else to look forward to

Threats

It can be hard to keep the interns motivated and in the internship's mindset because they are also busy with other jobs/studies they might have

Which aspects are transferable?

Empowering the interns by giving them a chance to choose what they want to do. Using online tools for team-building and networking processes.

A success story of the good practice

Two of the current interns (one from Italy and one from Iraq-Kurdistan) are now developing a side-project consisting of interviews with

immigrants and refugees, which will feature on the CB website soon.

Final summary: what makes it in your opinion a good method?

Our online writing internship has been a success from the start and we have hosted

interns from all over the world. Since the internship is online we are not constricted by geographical barriers. By bringing together people from different counties and backgrounds and stimulating group work we are not only empowering youth by giving them a platform to voice their opinions and training in online media, but we are all also encouraging intercultural dialogue.