

Virtual Global Internship: 2021

Learning Outcomes Report



Presented here are key insights on student learning from the 2021 cohort of students who took part in our VGI learning outcomes assessment.

"The internship ended up offering me more growth than I expected. From doing various work in graphic design and social media management, I familiarized myself with the work process, understood the field insights, and gained invaluable professional relationships. The experience fulfilled my learning goals about the marketing profession and armed me with essential hard skills and knowledge. In addition, I improved many soft skills, including time management, teamwork, communication, and flexibility. By trying to do various tasks and interacting with people from different backgrounds, I developed the ability to compromise, be flexible, and view things from other perspectives."

Linh Le, Villanova University, VGI in Marketing, Spain

Personal Learning

4.5/5

Academic Learning

4.5/5

Professional Learning

4.4/5

Cultural Learning

4.6/5

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of their remote internship experience, and in combination with the program curriculum, students will:

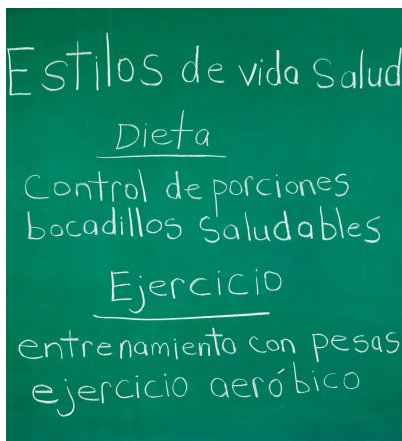
- Have actively engaged in the learning process, both within and outside of the internship placement.
- Have explored, examined, and/or clarified career goals.
- Have identified the basic nuances of working in a cross-cultural context.
- Gain practical skills, technological savvy, and an understanding of the remote work environment.
- Be able to apply their academic learning to practical experiences.
- Be better able to approach life with a high degree of adaptability, independence, and self-confidence.
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and cope effectively with ambiguous and unfamiliar situations.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of, and open-mindedness toward, other cultures.
- Display an understanding of values, beliefs, traditions, and perspectives different from their own.

HOW THE LEARNING WAS MEASURED

Students were asked to respond to a series of statements that pertained to their learning given the various aspects of their remote intern program. Using a five point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree), students selected the number that best corresponded with how likely they would be to agree with each statement as a result of their remote intern experience. Examples to support students' evaluation of their learning were requested for select statements.

PERSONAL LEARNING: 4.5/5

- I am more readily able to adapt to new and different situations and environments 4.7
- I am more able to cope effectively with ambiguous and unfamiliar situations 4.5
- My ability to think critically and solve problems has increased 4.5
- I am more likely to seek out diverse, challenging experiences 4.6
- My overall level of self confidence has increased 4.1
- My overall personal independence has increased 4.4



My large project "was to develop a nutrition program for children and families who don't have access to a lot of food. This was **a challenging and unfamiliar situation** for me as I wasn't expecting it, **but I handled it by** asking questions, working my best to understand their situation, and **thinking critically** on how we could approach this challenge."

- Exercise Physiology Major, Gustavus Adofus College, VGI in Health Coaching, Argentina

ACADEMIC LEARNING: 4.5/5

- I can effectively explain my increased knowledge of global issues, processes, trends, and systems to others 4.4
- My level of engagement, both within and outside of the internship placement, has increased 4.2
- My ability to communicate across cultural and/or language differences has improved 4.7
- I can effectively explain to others how the content I've learned through the part of this internship experience in the classroom can be applied to a real life work situation 4.5



"My internship pushed me to work at my best which helped develop **critical thinking, creativeness, and adaptability skills** which will be crucial not only in the engineering workforce but in any field of work I may choose to partake in down the line. Interning in Ecuador also helped me become **more open-minded** and awakened my desire to become **more understanding** and **culturally competent** so that I can become the **leader** necessary to connect and work with others. My experience in the CIS Abroad Virtual Internship Program has **set me on the best track for success**, and I am determined to use everything I have learned to continue growing and be successful in my future endeavors."

- Emanuel Diaz, Stevens Institute of Technology, VGI in New Technologies Design & Development, Ecuador

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING: 4.5/5

- I have a greater understanding of how my future career field is situated within an international context 4.3
- I am more confident about my ability to work in a cross-cultural setting 4.8
- I was able to readily adapt to the virtual environment of my internship 4.3
- I have a better sense of my intended career goals 4.2

CULTURAL LEARNING: 4.6/5

- I have a better understanding of the values, beliefs, traditions, and perspectives of individuals who are different from me 4.4
- I will be more likely to take into account diversity and cultural differences on a regular basis 4.8
- I can explain how my own values, beliefs, and culture influence my interactions with others 4.5
- I have developed a greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures 4.7
- I have developed a greater understanding and appreciation of my own culture 4.2
- I have a greater awareness of issues that confront my host community 4.6
- I am more open-minded toward other cultures 4.7



"I learned that **New Zealand experiences similar racial divide issues**, but they are taking many steps to solve this and bring more equality into the community."

- Environmental Science Major, University of Phoenix, VGI in Climate Change Research, New Zealand

"In **South Africa**, we talked about the apartheid that is very similar to the racist issues we are having in the United States. **It opened my eyes to know that other countries have these issues.**"

- Communications Major, Ohio University, VGI in Communications & Media, South Africa

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<https://www.cisabroad.com/students/virtual-internships/>