



## **POLS 5910 Graduate Internship**

Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus

Course name: Graduate Internship

Faculty Course Advisor: Simona Rentea, Ph.D.

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Internship Coordinator: Patrice Burns, [patrice.burns@slu.edu](mailto:patrice.burns@slu.edu)

Prerequisites: M.A. Director approval and all requirements detailed below.

Credit Hours: 0-3

### **Course Description:**

This class is a required course for the M.A. in Political Science and Public Affairs, with a concentration in International Relations and Crisis. The Graduate Internship is designed to help students learn by experience, make connections between their classroom learning and the workplace, and prepare them for careers in diplomacy, political consultancy, political research, the humanitarian field or in disaster management or emergency response. Students gain valuable on-site experience in a profession in which they have a career interest. Many internships provide good opportunities for both learning and networking and are sources of recommendation for employment and careers.

Academic credit is awarded in proportion to the number of hours a student-intern completes. A student must work 180 hours to earn 3 credits. A typical schedule for the fall and spring semesters is 12-15 hours per week, although some organizations may require a bigger hourly commitment. The 3 credits can also be split across two semesters and the hours distributed across more than one internship. A student can earn credit for two internships; however, the content of each must be different.

A foundational understanding of International Relations and contemporary crises is strongly recommended for students embarking on this journey. Ideally, this should be demonstrated through the completion of at least one course in the program, ensuring that interns can contribute effectively to their chosen field of service. Thus, aiming to secure a position after completing the first semester of the program is desirable.

### **Course Registration:**

Students should consult with a faculty mentor, the Internship Coordinator, or the M.A. Director to help identify opportunities related to their field of interest. The Political Science Department and Career Services maintain a list of agencies, non-profits, and companies who periodically offer internships.

To begin the application process, students must fulfil the required procedures and submit all the documents detailed [here](#) to the Internships Coordinator Patrice Burns. After interviewing and being selected for an internship by an organisation, the next step is signing the Internship Agreement Form between SLU Madrid and the organisation hosting the internship.

4. Learning - How does this compare to what you have learned in your classes at SLU-Madrid and/or to your initial thoughts and expectations?

***Monthly Meetings: Collaborative Discussion and Updates***

You will meet with the **Internship Coordinator** at least once a month to discuss your progress and your final work sample.

***Guidance Session: Engaging with your Faculty Course Advisor***

When you are at least halfway done with your internship, **you must schedule a meeting with your Faculty Course Advisor** to discuss your development in the internship. The discussions will encompass reflections on your academic learnings, their alignment with your practical experiences in the workplace, and the application of theories and concepts acquired during your time in class. Topics and issues discussed can also be extended to other points, aspects, or fields. Discussions may also encompass reflections on your educational journey, drawing comparisons between your studies and your professional experiences, and examining the practical application of the theories and concepts acquired in the classroom.

***Reflective Insights: Internship Reflection on Experience and Accomplishments***

At the end of the semester, you will submit a two-page *Internship Reflection*. This text should be addressing the manner in which the internship connected to the topics covered in the M.A. in International Relations and Crisis.

Possible questions to include in the reflection:

*Who is the organization trying to serve and how? What are the organization's standards for effectiveness? Does it live up to those standards?*

*Create your own criteria to assess the organization's effectiveness. Following these*





For more information about academic accommodations, see [SLU-Madrid's Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources webpage](#).

**Needs Security Statement:** Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources, and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact Student Life ([studentlife-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:studentlife-madrid@slu.edu) or +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 213) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

**Use of Posted Course Content:** SLU-Madrid prohibits recording and transmission of classroom lectures and discussions by students unless written permission from the class instructor has been obtained and all students in the class as well as guest speakers have been informed that audio/video