

Beginner Internship: Information for Project Partners

What is the Beginner Internship?

The Beginner Internship is a supervised internship in which statistics students in their 3rd semester work as a group to analyse a dataset with an associated research question. The students have basic statistical knowledge and are supervised by staff members from the Statistical Consulting Lab during the data analysis process.

What are the benefits of participating in the Beginner Internship?

Even for projects with significant workload, participation in the Beginner Internship does not incur any costs for the project partner. Students typically work very diligently and creatively on their projects, and the results are generally useful. However, as these are student projects, we cannot guarantee timely or flawless completion.

How does the process work?

Once a project is assigned, an initial meeting is held between the project partners, the students working on the project, and the supervisors. During this meeting, the substantive questions are translated into questions that can be answered using descriptive statistics based on the available data. Goals and the scope of the analyses are also discussed. Depending on the scope and timing (during the semester or in the semester break), the presentation of results typically takes place at the end of January (during the semester) or early April (during the semester break). The project concludes with a presentation of the results in the presence of the project partners. The results of the analyses are usually displayed graphically or in tabular form. For projects with many research questions, some questions are selected for presentation, while additional analyses are included in the appendix of the presentation slides. The project partner receives the presentation with the analysis results afterward. (By prior agreement, the syntax and program output can also be provided. It is also possible for the group to prepare a written report, although this is not a primary requirement of the Beginner Internship.)

What requirements should the project meet to be eligible for the Beginner Internship?

The dataset (preferably including the questionnaire, if the data were collected using one, and a description of variables) and an initial task outline—ideally a list of all

questions to be addressed—should be available at least one week before the project is assigned. Furthermore, the task should primarily involve descriptive analysis (graphical representations, calculation of metrics such as means, standard deviations, frequencies, correlations) or at least have significant descriptive elements. The project partner should be available to answer questions from the student group during the processing period (approximately 6 weeks).

If you are a potential external project partner, please contact Dr. Sabine Hoffmann (sabine.hoffmann@stat.uni-muenchen.de) to discuss the suitability and scope of your project.

When does it take place?

The Beginner Internship is offered during the winter semester, both during the lecture period and the semester break. Projects are typically assigned in mid-October for the lecture period and mid-February for the semester break.

How can we participate?

To discuss the suitability and scope of your project, please contact Dr. Sabine Hoffmann (sabine.hoffmann@stat.uni-muenchen.de).