

Internships & Professional Assignments

**International
Food &
Agribusiness**



Working with HAS University of Applied Sciences

HAS University of Applied Sciences is one of the Netherlands' leading higher education training and expertise centres for the agricultural, food and environment sectors, with campuses in 's-Hertogenbosch and Venlo. We pride ourselves on how we train and educate our students in the fundamental principles of creating value, sustainability, entrepreneurship, internationalisation and talent-based learning.

Apply our experience and expertise to resolve your business problem

At the HAS, we have a strong marketing ethic and close business ties. For years, our experience and expertise have helped resolve dilemmas in organisations across the sectors we serve. Does your company have a burning question that needs solving within a pre-set timeframe? HAS undergraduates and staff members can help!

Win-win

We aim to give our students as much practical experience in their field as possible, and a real taste of the business in which they aim to work. Working on your project helps the students to gain additional hands-on experience while at the same time sharing their recently acquired skills and knowledge of the latest insight in the sector.

1½ years' practical training

HAS students work on practical assignments from their first year onwards. Field trips and company visits are followed by a short work placement in the final term of the first year. In their third year, students go on 2 longer internships totaling 30 weeks. Either one or both of these takes place outside of the Netherlands. In the fourth year HAS students graduate after completing a Professional Assignment, which they work on for 20 weeks. This involves a team of students, supervised by teaching staff and advisers working on a specific issue or problem for an organisation. On graduation, students will have spent around 1½ years in the field.

Practical passion for their chosen field

At the HAS University of Applied Sciences, 3,800 full-time students follow 16 courses. Our small-scale university is characterised by the practical passion of our students and staff for their profession. It is this passion, combined with the valuable practical skills and talents acquired and developed at HAS, that enables our students to tackle real-life problems.

Courses at Den Bosch campus

- Animal Husbandry & Animal Care
- Applied Biology
- Business Administration & Agri-foodbusiness
- Environmental Innovation
- Food Innovation
- Food Technology
- Geo Media & Design
- Horticulture & Arable Farming
- ✦ Horticulture & Business Management
- ✦ International Food & Agribusiness
- Spatial and Environmental Planning

Courses at Venlo campus

- Applied Biology
- Business Administration & Agri-foodbusiness
- ✦ Business Management in Agriculture & Food
- Food Innovation
- Healthy Living

International Food & Agribusiness (IFA)

A programme to address the latest challenges facing international agribusinesses

The mission this 4-year English-taught bachelor's programme is to inspire students to become Game-changers in global agri-food systems. Young professionals from across the globe gain knowledge and skills of the food & agribusiness world-wide. They focus on sustainable supply chains in the food & agribusiness industry and are challenged to draw up scenarios for future-proof food systems.

Sustainability in global supply chains and specialist domains

Students not only acquire knowledge about the production and processing of food and agricultural products in different countries, they also learn how to make these global supply chains more sustainable. Thanks to their chosen domain (Animal Production, Crop Production or Food) students also gain a deeper insight into parts of a specific (food) supply chain.

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
1	Global Food Systems Crop Production	Agri-Food Business Animal Production	Biobased Economy 1 Introduction Food	One or two Work Experience Placement(s)
	Coaching & Skills			
2	Supply Chain Management Circular Economy	Food Governance Business & Marketing	Sustainable Trade Business Plan 1 Circular Economy	Business Plan 2 Extension on Sustainability
	Domain Track (Animal, Crop or Food)	Domain Track (Animal, Crop or Food)	International Study Trip	
	Coaching & Skills			
3	Project Internship(s) and/or participation in an exchange programme and/or minor			
4	Transition Management & Leadership Future Food Systems		Professional Assignment	
			Professional Assignment	

Work Experience Placement

Introductory placement / Approx. 8 weeks (2 months)

In their first year, students gain a basic knowledge of agri-food business and global food systems. They are also introduced to the following domains: Animal Production, Crop Production and Food. This broad foundation is followed by a practical placement. In the final semester of their first year, students take part in a Work Experience Placement to witness what they learned reflected in practice, whilst at the same time making an active contribution to their host organisations.

What can you expect from a Work Experience student?

The Work Experience Placement can best be described as an introductory placement, centred around agrofood companies. Depending on their interest in a particular domain, students can choose to spend their time with a primary production company or a food processing company. They can opt for 2 placement of 4 weeks each in different companies, (most likely primary production companies), or a single 'in depth' placement of 8 weeks, to deepen their knowledge. One of the key aims of the placement is for students to acquire a clearer view of the entire supply chain and the place of their host company (or companies) in that chain.

What will your organisation get from the placement?

Organisations offering Work Experience Placements can expect a student with a positive and motivated attitude, eager to be an active member of the team and pull their weight. Your student will also have an inquisitive mind towards both your organisation and the sector in which you operate. Some of our mature students already have considerable work experience before they join the course. As far as the other students are concerned, what they lack in experience they more than make up for in curiosity and energy.

Supervision

During their Work Experience Placement students have a company supervisor and a supervising lecturer from the university. The latter acts as the student's coach during the preparation phase leading up to the placement and has regular contact with the student during their time with you. The supervising lecturer plays a minor role during the actual internship but is always available to answer queries from both the student and the host company. The company supervisor is the student's contact person during the placement and ensures students have ample opportunity to familiarise themselves with the business. Towards the end of the placement, the lecturer contacts the host company. He assesses the student's reports and the placement process. The discussion with the company supervisor plays an important role in the final appraisal.



Prerequisites for Work Experience Placements

- **The company assigns a supervisor to the student whose tasks include:**
 - Regular consultation with the student
 - Providing feedback on the substantive quality of assignments carried out by the student
 - Evaluating the student's performance
- **In addition, during the internship period the student:**
 - Should be given sufficient time to work on assignments and report
 - Will be contacted by their HAS supervising lecturer

Project Internships in the Netherlands and abroad

Independent, in-depth degree-level assignment in international context / 10-20 weeks (2.5-5 months)

During the Project Internships in their third year, students apply the professional knowledge they have acquired. Project Internships in principle last between 10 and 20 weeks. In contrast to the exploratory character of the Work Experience Placement, in-depth learning takes centre stage in the Project Internship.

What can you expect from the student?

During the internship period, the student is required to independently carry out one or more in-depth degree-level assignments. If the internship takes place in the student's home country, the assignment must be of an international nature. The Internship coordinator is responsible for assessing the suitability of the assignment.

As the name suggests, during a Project internship the student works on solving a specific problem for his host company. These internships are also aimed at familiarising the student with the corporate culture and structure. The international* internship is intended to broaden a student's horizons, and improve both his language and intercultural skills.

What will your organisation get from the internship?

An IFA student is a prospective professional who joins your company to gain experience in his chosen field of Animal Production, Crop Production or Food, as well as in sustainability issues across the entire production chain. During his time with you, the student completes an assignment in one of these fields, for example:

- Conducting market research or write a business plan for a new area of the business
- Looking at the company's activities related to Corporate Social Responsibility

- Investigating methods of improving sustainability in sourcing, or elsewhere in the supply chain
- Optimising distribution or logistical processes

Whilst working on the project, the student is also available for part of the time, to carry out general activities within the internship department, provided these are suitable for the academic level of an undergraduate.

Supervision

Students have 2 supervisors: one from the host company and one from the HAS. The HAS supervisor (a lecturer mostly in the same field as the internship) acts as the student's coach during the preparation phase. As with the Work Experience Placement, the supervising lecturer plays a minor role during the actual internship but is always available to answer queries from both the student and the host company. In the case of projects in the Netherlands, the HAS supervisor visits the internship company to discuss progress with the company supervisor and the student. In case of an international internship this is done by phone, skype and email. The lecturer also assesses the student's written report, the contents of which are intended solely to assess the internship. The discussion with the company supervisor plays an important role in the final appraisal.

(*This may in fact be in the Netherlands if the student is not Dutch.)



Prerequisites for Project Internships

- The company must have at least one project assignment available that will take up no less than half of the work internship period.
- The student should have a considerable amount of personal input in the project
- The student should not be seen as an 'unqualified production worker'
- Each assignment should sufficiently challenge the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in order to be able to complete the assignment satisfactory
- The assignment should meet the specific educational needs and competences of the student

Professional Assignment

Real-life graduation project / 20 wks (5 months)

Do you need research conducted? Or are you looking for advice on a specific issue? A Professional Assignment could be the answer. Students at the HAS University of Applied Sciences graduate after completing a Professional Assignment. This assignment has a different structure to a Work Experience Placement or Project Internship and is related to the specialist domain chosen by students, who carry out the assignment as a team.

HAS Training and Consultancy

Each year businesses and other organisations approach the HAS University of Applied Sciences with more than a thousand queries of all sizes and topics, including nutrition, agribusiness, the environment, green development, crops and animal production. The scope and complexity of these queries vary from a Work Experience Placement of a couple of weeks to extensive research, and from a market analysis, to the development of an innovative technological application or scenarios for a future-proof supply chain set-up. The majority of the assignments are carried out under the auspices of the HAS Training and Consultancy.

What can you expect from final year IFA students?

Final year students are able to demonstrate that they are ready for the employment market in professional surroundings. They operate as young professionals within an assignment team. You can expect an independent, decisive attitude. The students are assessed on their expertise, professionalism and performance within the team. The assignment approach, goals and results are laid down in a contract before the project starts. HAS Training and Consultancy organises, coordinates and is responsible for the realisation of this contract. We also guarantee the confidentiality of the assignment, the information discovered and the results. The members of the assignment team are obliged to sign a confidentiality agreement.

What will your organisation get from the assignment?

As a client, you can expect results of the assignment to be based on all the necessary professional input in terms of expertise and time. Moreover, by choosing to work with tomorrow's professionals, you benefit from excellent value for money.

Supervision

During the assignments the students are professionally supervised by experts. These consultants and lecturers are chosen for their knowledge of the sector and their focus on achieving results. Each team of final year students is supervised by a project manager (a lecturer or consultant from the university). Together with the students they analyse the problem and come up with potential solutions. The project manager is the first point of contact for you as the client and is responsible for the overall performance of the team. He also assesses both the students' performance and their results.



Prerequisites for Professional Assignments
We enter into contractual results-based commitment within the scope of the assignment, for this the students must be given the space and support to apply their skills and knowledge to your business

- Due to other study commitments related to competence development, students are only available to work on the assignment for 36 hours per week

Contact us to discuss how HAS University can help your business

Offering an internship post

If you have an internship post available, please contact the course internship coordinator, Mrs Neeltje Bekkers. She will assess the internship for its suitability for our students and bring it to the students' attention. Students are responsible for setting up their own internship and so will contact you personally. Unfortunately we are unable to guarantee the availability of students for a particular internship or project.

Field trips and business visits

By maximising cooperation with our external contacts, HAS University of Applied Sciences is able to ensure that our students are fully prepared for the real world of business. In addition to internship and Professional Assignments we are therefore also keen to hear from organisations willing to host field trips, company visits or perhaps give a guest lecture. If you are able to offer any of these options, please contact Mrs Neeltje Bekkers.

Traineeship coordinator

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Workfield coordinator

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Offering a Professional Assignment

If you have a challenge HAS students might be able to help you with, why not contact us to discuss the different possibilities. We will assess the nature of the assignment and advise on the best way to approach it. Please contact the workfield coordinator, Mr Marnix Wolters, or the HAS Training and Consultancy team.

HAS Training and Consultancy

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A young man with short brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a black V-neck sweater over a white shirt and blue jeans, stands in a coffee shop. He is holding a brass bowl over a burlap sack. The background is filled with shelves of coffee beans and a coffee machine.

Password: International

*Because
I want a job
that allows me
to travel*