

# Internships & Professional Assignments

**Horticulture  
& Business  
Management**



# 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 green development 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 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. 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 work placements totalling 30 weeks. Either or both of these takes place outside of the Netherlands. In their 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 consultants 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, 3,000 full-time students follow 15 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.

- Study programmes at the HAS 's-Hertogenbosch campus**
- Business Administration & Agri-foodbusiness
  - Animal Husbandry & Animal Care
  - Food Innovation
  - Geo Media & Design
  - Horticulture & Business Management
  - International Food & Agribusiness
  - Spatial and Environmental Planning
  - Environmental Innovation
  - Applied Biology
  - Horticulture & Arable Farming
  - Food Technology

- Study programmes at the HAS Venlo campus**
- Business Administration & Agri-foodbusiness
  - Food Innovation
  - Applied Biology
  - Business Management in Agriculture & Food

# Horticulture & Business Management

The Horticulture & Business Management bachelor's degree programme at HAS University of Applied Sciences is the leading study programme for commercial plant production in the Netherlands. Approximately half of all of the country's graduates from higher vocational education courses studied at the HAS University of Applied Sciences. Horticulture & Business Management attracts international students from across the globe as well as students from the Netherlands. During the 4-year programme, students become acquainted with all of the sectors of horticulture and arable farming as well as the entire fresh chain, before specializing in one or two sectors and one domain profile. The study programme has 3 specialist domain profiles: Research and innovation, International business, Cultivation and technology.

Year	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
1	Plant and environment The horticultural sector	Plant and cell Economics and business	Plant and growth Marketing and communication	Work experience placement
Personal performance development				
2	Cultivation and planning Entrepreneurship and market	Cultivation and technology Supply chain management	Cultivation research Business and management	Future farming 1 Future farming 2
Cultivation project				
Personal and professional development				
3	Internship and study			
Your year plan				
4	Management and information Graduation profile		Professional Assignment	
Personal and professional development				



# Work Experience Placement

In their first year, Horticulture & Business Management students gain a basic business and botanical knowledge. Aspects covered include Economics, Entrepreneurship & Company, Marketing, Cell biology, Plant biology and Physiology. This broad foundation is followed by a practical taster work experience placement. In the 4th block of their first year, Horticulture & Business Management students take part in 2 work experience placements of 4 weeks each, to witness what they have learnt reflected in practice.

## Observing and applying knowledge

In addition to being aimed at giving students a taste of what they can expect in a primary production company in horticulture or arable farming, the Work Experience Placement is also an opportunity for them to apply the knowledge they have acquired with the assignments they have carried out during their course. Although not all Horticulture & Business Management students will end up working for a primary production company, they will most likely deal with one. This is why it is important that students have the opportunity to take a look over the shoulder of the entrepreneur during the placement, and gain an impression of this part of the chain. In addition, the student should also get to know as many aspects of the business as possible by working with them.

## What can you expect from a Work Experience student?

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.

## Supervision

During their Work Experience Internship, 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 internship 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 internship and ensures students have ample opportunity to familiarise themselves with the business. Towards the end of the internship, the lecturer visits the host company. The lecturer assesses the student's reports and the internship process. The discussion with the company supervisor plays an important role in the final appraisal.

## Prerequisites for Work Experience Internships

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
- Assessing the student's performance

In addition, during the internship period the student:

- May attend one internship review day
- Should be given sufficient time to work on their assignment and report
- May be visited by their HAS supervising lecturer





# Project Internships in the Netherlands and abroad

During 2 Project Internships in their third year, students actively apply the knowledge they have acquired of Horticulture & Business Management in practice. Project Internships last a total of 30 weeks and one of them takes place outside of the Netherlands. The Project Internship in the Netherlands is for at least 10 and no more than 20 weeks. During the Project Internship, students gain a greater in-depth knowledge of their chosen field, more so than is the case with the Work Experience Placement. In addition, in their third year students can decide to take some modules at a partner university outside of the Netherlands.

## In-depth assignments

During the internship, the student is required to independently carry out one or more in-depth degree-level assignments. The supervising lecturer is responsible for assessing the suitability of the assignment. The internship in the Netherlands is aimed at increasing the student's knowledge of their chosen specialist field. As the name suggests, during a Project Internship the student works on solving a specific problem for their 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 their language skills.

A Horticulture & Business Management student is a prospective professional who joins your company to gain experience in their chosen field of, for example production, breeding, sales, purchasing, quality, logistics, import, export, financing, consultancy or research. During their time with you, the student completes an assignment in one of these fields, for example:

- Conducting market research for a new area of the business
- Carrying out a customer satisfaction survey
- Conducting research into a cultivation programme
- Carrying out a company comparison
- Optimising distribution processes for a wholesaler

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 in the same field as the internship) acts as the student's coach during the preparation phase. As with the Work Experience Internships, 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 Dutch projects, the HAS supervisor visits the internship company to discuss progress with the company supervisor and the student. The lecturer also assesses the student's written report, the contents of which are intended solely to assess the internship. At the end of the internship, the assessment by the company supervisor is taken into consideration in the final mark by the lecturer.

## Prerequisites for Project Internships

The company assigns the student a supervisor, who is a graduate in the subject being covered. Their tasks include:

- Providing feedback on the substantive quality of assignments carried out by the student
- Assessing the student's performance

In addition, during the internship period the student:

- Should be allocated their own workspace and all the necessary facilities
- May attend one internship review day or an exam
- Should be given sufficient time to work on their assignment and report
- May be visited by their HAS supervising lecturer to discuss progress with the company supervisor

The Project Internship agreement only comes into effect once the student has met the requirements set by the HAS





# Professional Assignment

**Do you need research carrying out? Or are you looking for advice on a specific issue? A Company Assignment could be the answer. Students at the HAS University of Applied Sciences graduate after completing a 20-week Professional Assignment. This assignment has a different structure to a work placement or internship and is related to the specialist domain chosen by students, who carry out the assignment as a team.**

## **Supervision**

Students are 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.

## **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.

## **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 placement of a couple of weeks to extensive research, and from a market analysis, to the development of an innovative technological application. The majority of the assignments are carried out under the auspices of HAS Training and Consultancy.

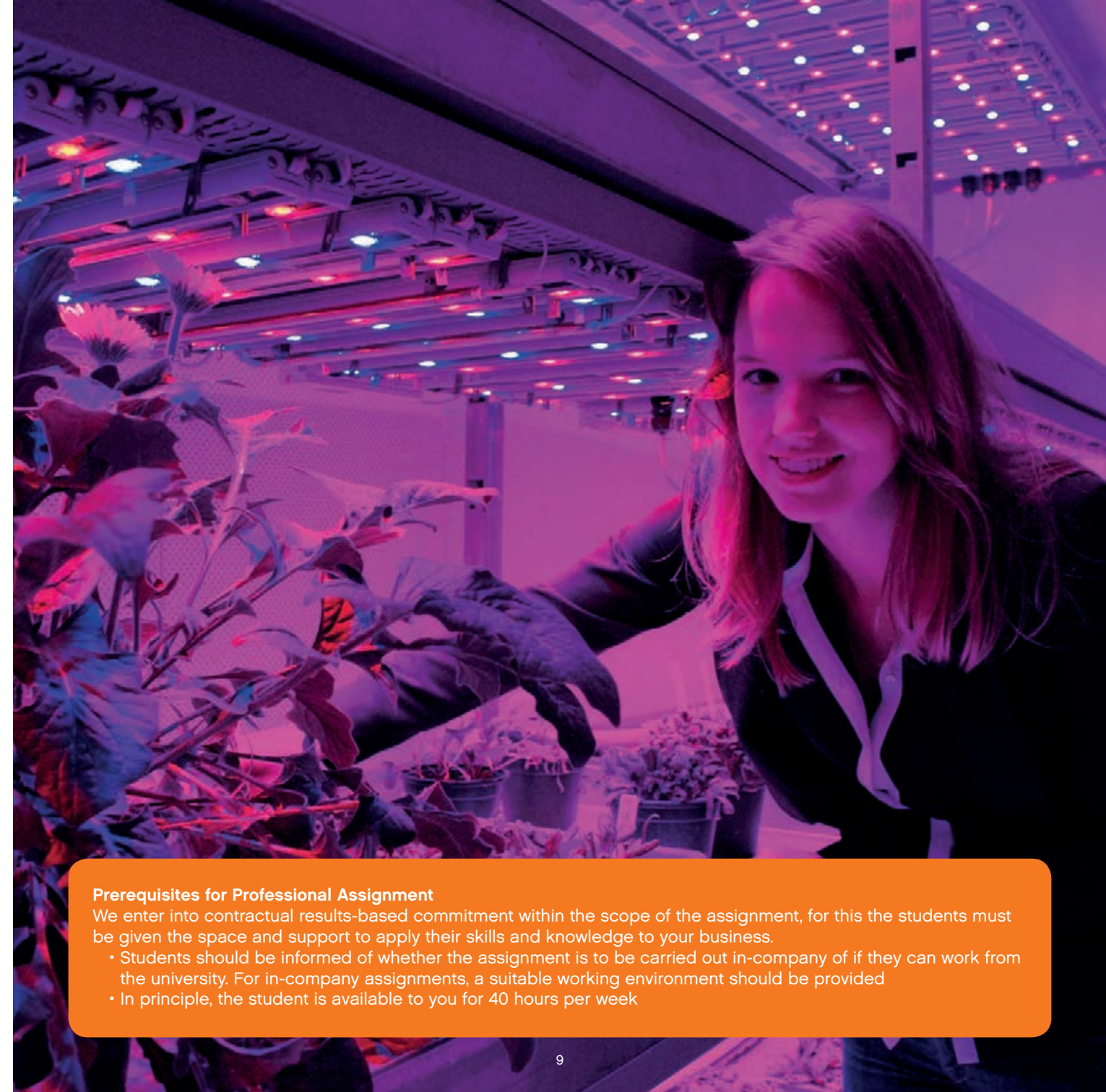
## **What can you expect from final year students?**

Final year HAS 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 University of Applied Sciences 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 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 the quality of their results.

## **Prerequisites for Professional Assignment**

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.

- Students should be informed of whether the assignment is to be carried out in-company or if they can work from the university. For in-company assignments, a suitable working environment should be provided
- In principle, the student is available to you for 40 hours per week





# Contact us to discuss how HAS University can help your business

## Offering a internship post

If you have a internship post available, please contact the course internship coordinator, Mrs Maaïke Mikkers. 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 internships to suit their interests, 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 company 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 Project Internships 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 Maaïke Mikkers:

## Internship coordinator Horticulture & Business Management/Horticulture & Business Management

Maaïke Mikkers  
T +31 (0)88 890 3789  
E m.mikkers@has.nl

## 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 HAS Training and Consultancy team.

## HAS Training and Consultancy

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**Password:  
Entrepreneur**

*Because  
I'm not afraid  
to take on  
a challenge*

**has**  
university  
of applied sciences