

Laurea Magistralis in World Politics and International Relations  
**Internships: guidelines valid for the duration of the covid-19 pandemic**

Updated: 15 December 2020

Over the last months, it has proven more difficult for students to find internships. Below, we set out some guidelines spell out our general policies to deal with the situation created by the pandemic. However, it is important to bear in mind that all problems in finding adequate internships will continue to be dealt with on an individual, case-by-case basis. To have your internship options approved you need to write to [wpir@unipv.it](mailto:wpir@unipv.it), copying also to Prof. Berkofsky (in cc: [axel.berkofsky@unipv.it](mailto:axel.berkofsky@unipv.it)).

1. *Internships*. If you have already been accepted for an internship, the first thing to do is to see if the internship can be carried out a distance, using “smart working”.
2. *Online training courses*. If you are unable to find an appropriate internship, either in presence or using smart working, you may seek out an online training course, or a set of such courses, on your own initiative. These can be approved as valid substitutes for an internship as long as they are of an appropriate number of hours and on topics broadly in line with the degree program.

Unlike in the case of a normal internship, in the case of online training courses you will need to complete the activity with some kind of assessed work, such as a final piece of written work or an oral exam, the nature of which needs to be agreed in advance.

In seeking out online training courses you might want to bear in mind those of ISPI, <https://www.ispionline.it/it/isp-school/corsi-express-0>, which, however, are mostly in Italian; or Coursera, <https://www.coursera.org/>, many of which are vocational in nature. In these cases, we will require a certificate of confirmation that you followed the course.

3. *Numbers of hours*. The university has authorized us to show some flexibility during the pandemic regarding numbers of hours required for a given number of credits for internships or training courses. This doesn't mean “anything goes” (you shouldn't propose, to give an extreme example, a mere 6-hour course as sufficient for 6 credits). But it does mean, for example, that if you are forced to finish an internship ahead of time, or if you find online training courses that fall slightly short of the required number of hours, we can be flexible in approving them. Where the shortfall in the number of hours is significant, we will ask you to compensate with a proportionate amount of additional, internally assessed work.
4. *Cost-free options*. We are aware that the above-mentioned training courses mostly require attendees to pay a fee and that this may pose a problem for some students. In any case, in this emergency situation it falls on us to supply at least some internally organized options that are cost-free. We have devised two options in this connection: 1. Working to relaunch the WPIR student blog (open to a maximum of 3 students); 2. Conducting a piece of research leading to an academic paper. For details about these two options, please see the two attached documents.

5. *Substituting the internship in your study plan.* The only kind of option with which you may substitute an internship in your study plan is a language.

If you have already covered some of your “free choice” credits with a language course, you can move that language into the 12-credit “internship or language” slot in your study plan, thus removing your internship and freeing up the “free choice” slot. This will leave you free to cover the “free choice” credits with any Pavia University course of your choosing.

If you substitute an internship for a language course given by the University of Pavia, you will need to change your study plan. If, instead, you substitute an internship with a language course given outside the University, this will fall under point 2 above (training course) and so should not require a change in your study plan.