

IE₃ Returned Intern Evaluation Survey Analysis of Responses, 2008-2009 School Year

The 2008-2009 school year is the second year that we have collected data in the revised and expanded program evaluation surveys. While no significant trends can be identified from two years of data, we can now begin to make comparisons from one year to another. This year's analysis also updates the 2007-2008 school year evaluation data with evaluations for 2007-2008 received after last year's report was written.

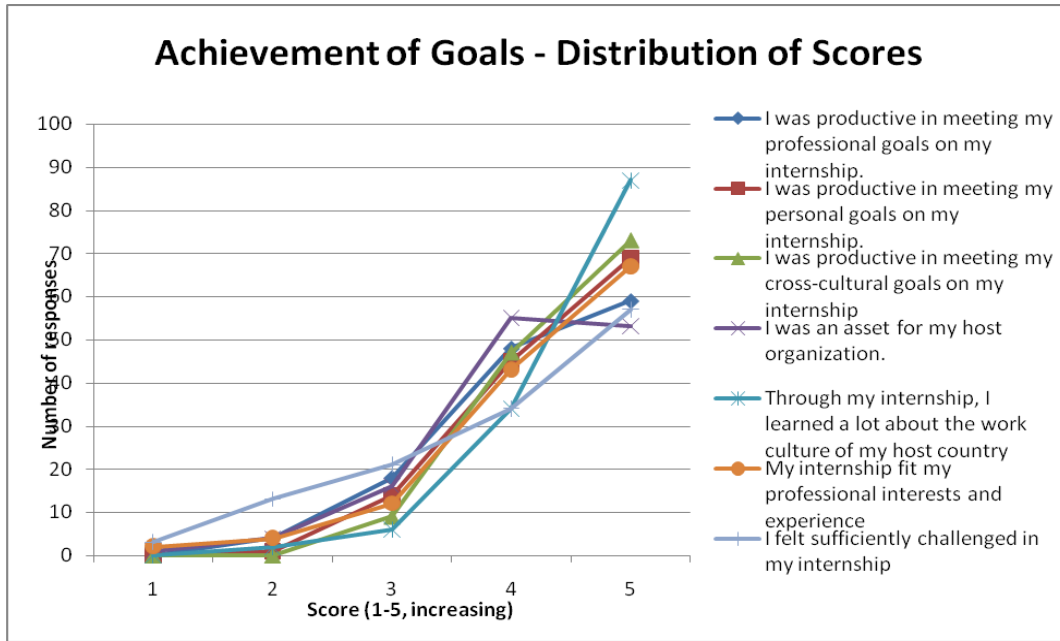
For the 2008-2009 school year, the survey collected responses from 130 students who began their internships between summer 2008 and spring 2009 terms (compared to 115 last year). Respondents included 46 students who interned in Africa, 41 in Latin America, 18 in Europe, 14 in Asia and 11 in Oceania. Responses included 44 from the University of Oregon, 36 from Oregon State University, 15 from the University of Washington, ten from Portland State University, eight from Western Oregon University, four from OSU Cascades Campus, three from Southern Oregon University and University of Alaska Fairbanks, two from Western Washington University and University of Utah, and one each from Lane Community College, Concordia, and the University of Alaska Anchorage.



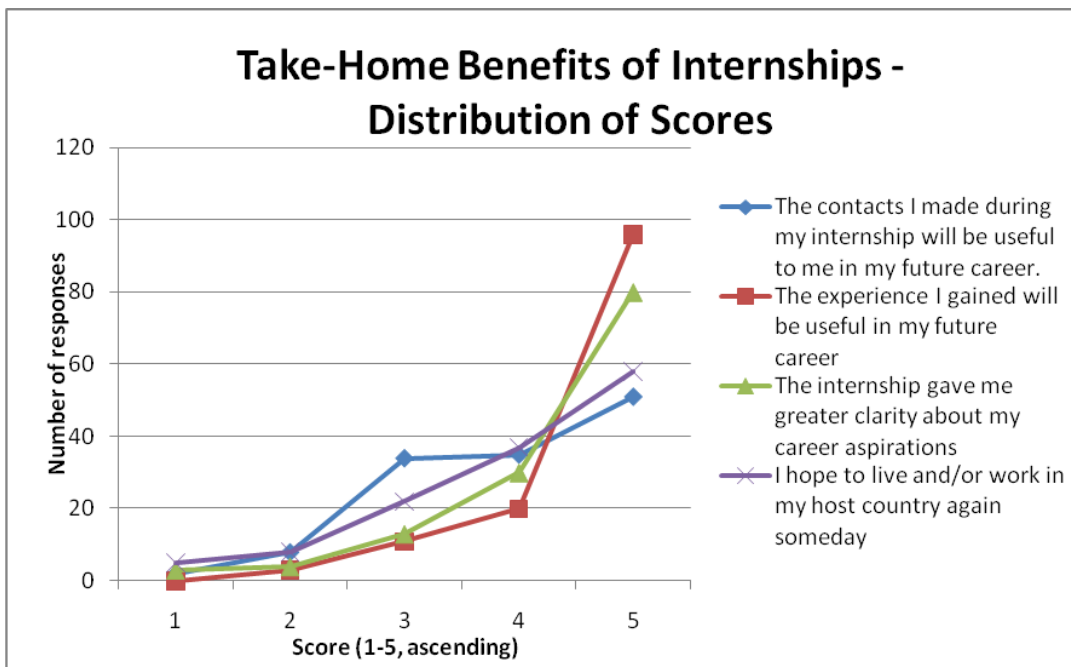
When asked what factors were most important in their selection of an internship, interest in the location and in the professional area of the internship remained the most important this year, followed closely by relevance to academic major. Less important were factors such as faculty or advisor recommendations and likelihood of acceptance. There was a marginal increase in the importance of cost as a decision factor for 08-09 interns compared to 07-08 interns from an average of 3.16 to 3.35 on a 1-5 scale. While this might be attributable to the economic downturn, it's still too early to tell.

When asked about their success in achieving their goals, students continued to have the most success learning about the work culture of their host country, followed closely by achieving personal and cross-cultural goals. Compared to the 2007-2008 school year, 2008-2009 found interns experiencing a stronger connection between their internships and their professional interests, and achieving their professional goals more

effectively. Interns also felt better about the level of challenge they encountered in their internships than last year, but indicated that there is still room for improvement in helping the intern feel more like an asset to their host organization.

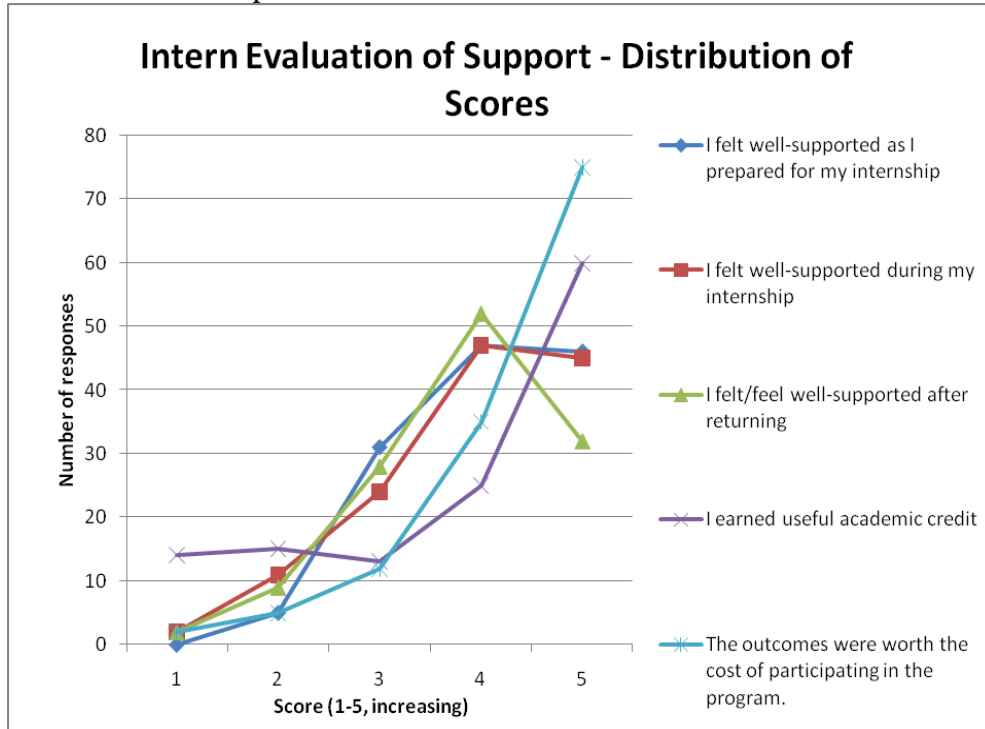


There was very little change in student responses to questions about the “take-home” benefits of the internship experience. Students agreed most strongly that they gained clarity in their professional aspirations and that their experience will be useful in their future careers. On the other hand, fewer believe that the contacts they made during their internship will be useful to them in their future careers. The most notable change from 07-08 to 08-09 was an increase in the percentage of students hoping to live or work in their host country again – from 57% to 73%.

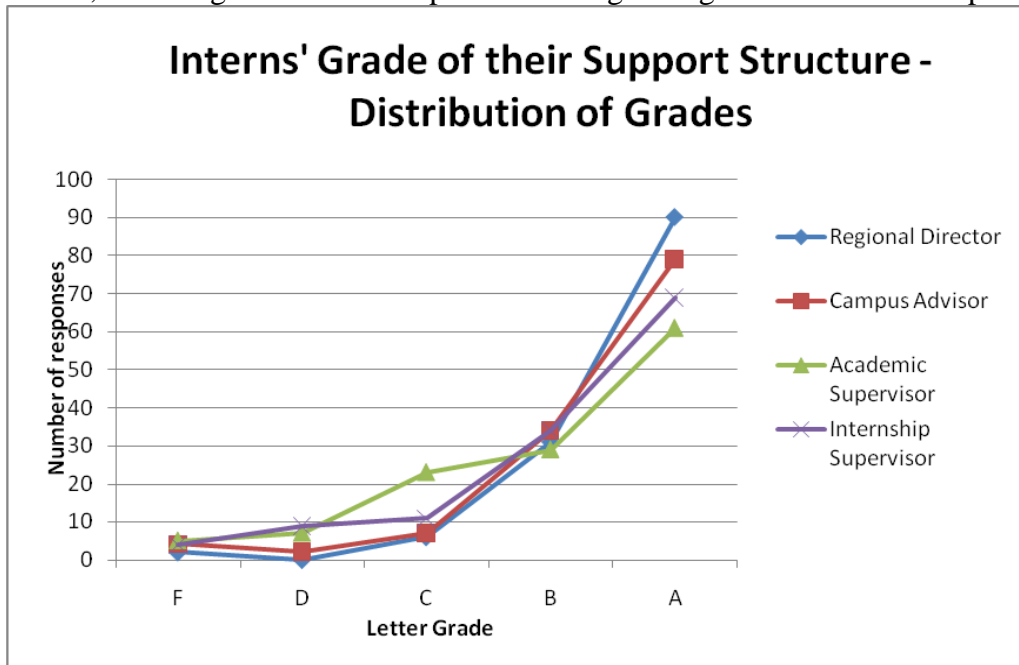


When looking at the students’ evaluation of the value-added of the IE₃ program, responses continued to be overwhelmingly positive in response to the statement “overall, the outcomes of the internship program were worth the cost of participating in the program.” Student evaluations of the value of the

credit they earned improved noticeably with far fewer respondents disagreeing strongly that the credit was useful and more students agreeing strongly. Student evaluations of their pre-departure and post-internship support dropped slightly – fewer scored the support a five (strongly favorable), but the average score for these areas of support remained roughly the same as fewer scored it a 1 (strongly unfavorable). Areas for growth include post-internship support and ensuring that students receive greater value from their internship credit.



Lastly, students continued to give the strongest grades to the support given by regional directors, followed closely by their campus advisors. However, all other actors received improved grades in 08-09 compared to 07-08, including a noticeable improvement in grades given to academic supervisors.



There are a number of free response questions in the student evaluation. Here are a sampling of some of those responses that demonstrate the depth and diversity of internship responsibilities and the lasting memories that are forged in the process.

What are our interns doing?

- Collecting baseline and financial data for the annual report
- Organizing a trade mission
- Checking airways and lungs for abnormal sounds
- Performing hygiene checks on school children
- Compiling data from women's self help groups
- Background research regarding the Public Finance Management Act
- Creating cervical cancer awareness posters for the maternity hospital
- Conducting wine tastings
- Teaching America class to help prepare the kids for their adjustment into the United States
- Building an ecological house made of tires
- Setting up an online store
- Assisting with the closing of refugee camps
- Photodocumentation
- Handling correspondence between our company and other bands/managers/publicity firms
- Compiling data from GPS maps
- Writing the business plan for the Kallari Association.
- Student advising
- Monitoring shore plovers
- Attending family interventions
- Donor outreach
- Teaching English classes
- Redesigning fabrics
- Maintaining nursery and seed collection
- Researching and contacting Football sponsors around Scotland;
- Cheetah husbandry
- Children's theater in local schools
- Selling advertising space in our quarterly publication

A sampling of the best memories:

- I really liked getting to know people from all over the world.
- Developing my imagination and ideas as to what projects and skills are age appropriate and fun for kids to do and learn
- Witnessing and assisting the professional midwife with two births
- French castles and French cuisine
- Becoming part of my host family
- Improvement of my Spanish speaking abilities
- The children!!!!
- Seeing the personal effect I had on individuals in the community as I said goodbye.
- Going to Manchester for the annual Labour conference
- Visiting a ceremonial meeting of a local cofradia (religious brotherhood)
- Trekking in Himalayas to rural towns to provide health care.
- The fact that my name will be on a scientific paper
- Learning about wine and olive oil
- Learning the ropes of creating a full marketing plan and carrying it out.
- Working on a Pepsi Max commercial shoot
- The scavenger hunt on the international students day

- Seeing a patient whose CD4 cell count was previously 7 increase to over 200. It was a miracle!
- I felt that I learned a lot about the Child Protection Laws and Safeguarding of children.
- The staff I was so fortunate to meet and work with.
- Living and working in rural small towns while performing the community assessment.
- Tie-dying with the WHOLE school
- Having a cover photo on the magazine within the first 2 weeks of my being there!
- Being here for the 5th Summit of the Americas and all of the outstanding networking opportunities.

Some parting comments from 2008-2009 interns:

- This internship made me realize that I was making the right choice in terms of my degree and also help shed some perspective on future aspirations.
- I also really used a lot of my textbook acquired knowledge, so now I know that all that studying pays off!
- This internship gave me invaluable hands-on experience that I would never have received from normal college education yet it will be essential for success in my future career.
- Experiencing Ethiopia first-hand taught me more in 3 months than can ever be taught in a classroom setting
- My training in history was extremely satisfactory in understanding what Guatemala faces as a state and people.
- I have further proof I want to teach for the rest of my life.
- I feel now that I better idea of what direction I want to go in, I am seeing the relevance of my classes, and am excited about the future classes that I will be taking about community development and aid.
- I knew when I declared a Spanish major that my main goal was to learn Spanish well to use in another, related field. This internship has shown me a few ways that that is possible.
- I have a hard time learning from lectures and readings, so this internship was very good for me.
- This internship gave me the experience that I needed to make an informed decision about my future career goals.
- The internship overseas is icing on an already delicious cake, but important icing! The internship has enhanced my life on every level...personal, professional...it had such a positive impact for me that it's difficult to put into words.