

STUDENTS' SURVEY ON THE QUALITY OF PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS

AUTUMN SEMESTER OF 2019/2020



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

TIME: December - January 2019/2020.

AIM: To find out the opinion of the students of the study programme of Dietetics on the quality of the organisation of internships in the autumn semester of 2019/2020.

QUESTIONNAIRE: The questionnaire consists of closed and open questions. The closed questions include 11 statements asking students to evaluate various aspects of the organisation of the internship in terms of approval ("Yes") or disapproval ("No"). Each statement is accompanied by an open question allowing the student to comment on the evaluation expressed. The student is also asked to evaluate the overall quality of the organisation of the internship on a ten-point scale. Two additional open-ended questions are intended to provide students with feedback on what they liked and disliked about the professional training.

RESULTS: The survey was completed by 96 per cent of the 2nd-and-3rd-year students of the study programme of Dietetics (42 students in total), who completed their internship in the autumn semester of 2019/2020. In general, students rated the quality of the organisation of internships as very good, with a score of 9.5 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Evaluation of the quality of organising internships by the students of the study programme of Dietetics

Statements	Yes	No
There were no problems while choosing the internship placement	81%	19%
The Head for Practical Training of the Faculty provided information about internships, their organisation, and the procedure for organising internships approved in the Faculty, and I could address him if necessary	100%	0%
The internship supervisor (lecturer) provided all the necessary information (explained the internship programme, the individual task, the assessment criteria, and could contact him/her if necessary)	100%	0%
I had a mentor assigned to me at the placement	100%	0%
The mentor got acquainted with my internship programme (aim, individual tasks, assessment, etc.)	100%	0%
I received training and professional experience from the mentor and other staff members and advice when problems arose	100%	0%
The atmosphere at the internship placement was positive and cooperative	100%	0%
I could achieve the objectives and learning outcomes set out in the internship programme	95%	5%
The individual assignments were relevant to the internship placement, and I could complete them fully	100%	0%
The principles of assessing the internship were clear to me	100%	0%
I would recommend my internship placement to other students	100%	0%

Students' comments: Here are students' authentic responses on what they liked and disliked about the internship placement (see Table 2).

Table 2. Feedback from the students of the study programme of Dietetics on their internship

What they liked	What they did not like
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I had an opportunity to create individual nutrition plans for clients, do body analyses and provide nutritional advice. I got acquainted with food supplements and received additional information about plant-based nutrition. • The environment of the placement and the staff. • Warm communication of the staff and the mentor with me. • Detailed presentation of the profession, consistent activity plan, a friendly team of professionals. • Variety of practical activities, an opportunity to see the work of a dietitian not only in a hospital but also in a children's rehabilitation unit. • Professional environment, dietitians have a lot to teach. • I liked the tasks, the placement itself, the contact with people. • The mentor allowed me to do a lot of things independently. • I got a lot of practical experience; the whole team was very helpful. • Friendly and cooperative staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of hours. • Commuting to another town. • The time of the internship coincides with that of another academic group, making it difficult to find an internship placement in Kaunas.

Discussion of the survey results: The survey results were presented at the meeting of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Medicine and discussed with the academic staff of the study programme.
