

STUDENTS' SURVEY ON THE QUALITY OF PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS

AUTUMN SEMESTER OF 2020/2021

TIME: November – December 2020/2021

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 2020/2021.

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.

RESULTS: The survey was completed by 46 per cent of the students of the study programme of Dietetics who completed their internship in the autumn semester of 2020/2021. In general, students rated the quality of the organisation of internships as very good, with a score of 9.1 (see Table 1).

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

Statement	Yes	No
There were no problems while choosing the internship placement	52%	48%
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	91%	9%
The atmosphere at the internship placement was positive and cooperative	96%	4%
I could achieve the objectives and learning outcomes set out in the internship programme	87%	13%
The individual assignments were relevant to the internship placement, and I could complete them fully	96%	4%
The principles of assessing the internship were clear to me	96%	4%
I would recommend my internship placement to other students	91%	9%

Students' comments: Here are students' authentic responses (see Table 2).

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

Students' feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Covid has made it harder to find a placement, and many institutions refused to accept trainees.• I liked the internship itself, but it's a pity it was remote due to quarantine.• A hospital was more suitable for this placement, but due to the quarantine I had to do it elsewhere.• I would have liked to have had more contact.• This internship was not very easy because everything was done remotely. I wanted to call the mentor for the slightest question, but during this internship, I not only improved my computer skills, but also self-confidence (in performing tasks), which I will definitely need as a future practitioner.• If it weren't for the quarantine, it would have been even more useful, I think some practice in the institution was missing.• Everything was very well prepared for a remote internship, and I managed to meet in person to complete all the paperwork comfortably.• The internship could have been postponed to the spring semester as it was now the theoretical and not the practical part, and this time could have been used to develop the final thesis.• In my opinion, we could have signed the diaries and contracts online; this caused extra stress for everyone. I think this internship was affected because of the situation in the country, we couldn't be in the real professional environment.

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.
