

Class: 4D

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Topic: Internship

Hong Kong university students undertaking internship: Valuable or meaningless?

As we all know, almost every secondary school student is cramming hard for the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination (HKDSE) in order to pass it with flying colours. They all believe that with good academic results, they can get in university and finally become successful. However, many Hong Kong employers recently claimed that university students lack industry knowledge and skills. Therefore, it is controversial whether university students should be required to undertake an internship. Regarding this, I would like to suggest that all university students should be required to undertake an internship due to the following three reasons.

There is no doubt that undertaking an internship can help students gain a practical and pragmatic experience, as it is surely essential for students to work in the future. Despite the fact that the knowledge learnt in lessons may help students become more professional in their future related jobs, there are quite a lot of practical skills that can only be learnt in the workplace. Take being a vet as an example, through university courses, you may learn the theories of curing different types of animals. However, you may not know how to handle different complaints of the animals' owners as these practical skills can only be gained through work experience. Through undertaking an internship, students can utilize the practical skills gained when they work in the future. Hence, it is of great importance for all university students to undertake an internship.

It is undeniable that undertaking an internship could help university students quickly adapt to the work environment. This is surely beneficial to the employers. Through undertaking internship, students can get used to the workplace. By taking on an internship, students can meet and communicate with different people and know the responsibilities of the job. Hence, students can be familiar with the nature of their jobs. When they start to work in the future, they can quickly get used to the working environment and the employers do not have to spend a lot of time to train them since they have already been familiar with what they have to do. Therefore it could decrease the cost of manpower, increase the level of efficiency and finally facilitate

the company's development. Therefore, undertaking an internship should be required for all university students.

Doubtlessly, by undertaking an internship, it can help students secure a job offer as students who perform well and impress their bosses may be offered full-time employment after graduation. With these offers, students do not need to worry about their future after graduation. Therefore, great benefits could be brought to university students if they all have to undertake an internship.

Some may claim that students should not be required to undertake an internship as they may receive no salary. Admittedly, students may gain no money from their internship. However, they can gain experience and skills which are vital for them to work in the future. With these invaluable experience and skills, they can find jobs with higher salaries easily after graduation. Thus, whether they receive a salary or not from the internship is not a concern.

Because of the above reasons, I strongly suggest that our government should require all university students to undertake an internship before graduation.