

PONENTE:

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TÍTULO DE LA PONENCIA:

Integrating interships in online studies in the field of Education. The case of the European Institutions of Laureate International Universities (LIU) Network

RESUMEN:

Laureate's network of more than 70 campus-based and online universities in 25 countries offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs to over one million students worldwide. It is the largest global network of degree-granting higher education institutions, and its students are part of a diverse, international community that spans the Americas, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. As the Centre of Excellence for international online education within Laureate International Universities, Laureate Online Education International is the global education partner for a number of internationally recognised academic institutions. With over a decade of experience in the international online education market, it excels in understanding and meeting the educational needs of working adults around the world. In Europe, LIU offers online programs with Higher Education institutions in Spain, Cyprus, Germany, Italy, Turkey and the UK.

The rapid enrollment increase in the online programs of Laureate International Universities Network in Europe, has brought us in front of the challenge to ensure accessible quality face-to-face internship experiences for our students. There are many challenges to providing a quality internship experience within a mostly asynchronous, dynamic online learning environment. To design such internship projects successful in an online environment, a number of factors have been taken into consideration while designing the curriculum.

More analytically, as part of our graduate programs in Education, offered fully online, we have developed a process for internships, which integrates a semester-long project working with different school units and institutions in different countries worldwide. The internship project in the education graduate programs is either the penultimate or final class taken by students and it provides a good example of an experience designed to help students apply the knowledge they have acquired through a program to gain practical experience working with the field of their specialization.

The experience and results from these projects has been well received by the participating students and companies. We describe some of the challenges we have faced, strategies we have developed, and ongoing modifications to the curriculum.