



STU 298: MISSIONAL INTERNSHIPS

Converge Course: A Training Course for Youth With A Mission Sponsored Internships

A program of the Student Mobilization Centre, an interdisciplinary learning centre of the University of the Nations

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

STU 298: Missional Internships is a required course for Converge Interns. Converge is an online platform enabling Christian students to search for an ideal internship opportunity based on their spiritual journey, personal interests and professional skills. The Intern will gain biblical and historical foundations for understanding the call of God, interact with a personal Mentor, and serve a YWAM-sponsored internship opportunity for the glory of God's Kingdom. Each Intern will be equipped for the internship through pre-departure orientation lessons and mentoring and will assess and propose a response to the needs of a community in a final project report prepared during service.

Previous Interns have helped start businesses and plant churches, established HIV/AIDS counseling clinics and health awareness campaigns, installed water pumps and storage facilities, established therapy routines for disabled children in orphanages, performed research on patient records in medical clinics and established a working pharmacy with donated pharmaceuticals, developed a healthy nutritional plan for hospice, and created curricula for schools.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

During this course, the Intern will:

1. Demonstrate the understanding that modern missions is changing through the posture of a disciple in relationships and partnerships within a missions context.
2. Determine what it means to serve and worship God through the Intern's field of study.
3. Deepen his or her understanding of what it means to know and love God.
4. Cultivate a spirit of prayer and missional cooperation with God and the people of another culture.
5. Assess the needs of a community in relation to a particular field of study.
6. Propose and document a missional project report.
7. Develop a biblical worldview for life-work and calling.
8. Develop a plan of action to further the Intern's own calling.

REQUIRED READING

- Selected articles in Converge Course site
- *Calling & the Discipleship of Nations*, by John Henry (included in Lesson 9)

SUGGESTED READING

- *God on Campus: Sacred Causes and Global Effects*, by Trent Sheppard, with Pete Greig (Afterword); Campus America Books, 2009.
- *Truth and Transformation*, by Vishal Mangalwadi; YWAM Publishing, 2009.
- *The Call*, by Os Guinness; Thomas Nelson, 2003.
- *Cosmopolis*, by Stephen Edelston Toulmin; University of Chicago Press, 1992.
- *Discipling Nations*, by Darrow L. Miller and Stan Guthrie; YWAM Publishing, 2001.

PREREQUISITES

Acceptance into the Converge program and placement with a YWAM sponsored internship.

CREDIT OPTIONS

Interns will be awarded a grade upon completion of this course and may request that a course transcript be sent to their college or university. There is no audit option for this course. For information on transcripts, visit the University of the Nations website: www.uofn.edu.



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COURSE OVERVIEW

THE CONTEXT

Converge is an extensive listing of internship opportunities around the world (See www.ywamconverge.org). Each internship posting is initiated by a Host, offering to connect Interns with internship opportunity in their community and arrange the logistics of their home-stay. The Converge Course is designed for individuals preparing for effective service with an on-going Internship serving a community in need.

A UNIQUE APPROACH TO MISSIONS AND LEARNING

The Converge Course is a hybrid of online learning and personal interaction as you regularly connect with an experienced Mentor and receive video instruction from cross-cultural missions experts. Each lesson consists of a series of short (approx. 3 minute) video interviews and distilled messages, brief articles, and discussion responses. Each lesson is to be followed by contact with your Mentor, who will respond to questions and coach you through logistical preparations. Each of our Mentors is a seasoned and experienced missional leader who will provide academic and spiritual guidance as you complete the course and prepare for your internship.

The Converge Course and Internship experience is a three-way relationship between you, the Intern, your CHOSEN Mentor, and the Host. Building solid relationships with your Mentor, Host, and those on the field will be key to a fruitful and successful experience. Your Mentor will be your advocate, coach, and prayer partner throughout your Converge experience. The Host will be responsible to orient you and introduce you to the Internship Leader and staff. The Host will also coordinate housing and local transportation and will provide supervision with weekly meetings. The Internship Leader will debrief and evaluate you at the end of your field experience. Your Mentor will also complete an evaluation.

COURSE ASSUMPTIONS

The relevance of this course is grounded in the following assumptions:

- University students are at the forefront of advances in global missions.
- No student or organization operates in strategic isolation, especially missional projects serving communities of need.
- Each organization, no matter the size, is part of a larger picture of what God is doing in a given place.
- Students with a posture of prayer and partnership can be part of the release of a new intentional, sustained synergy among local and regional missional initiatives.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course involves five phases: Pre-Departure Orientation, Enculturation, Assessment, Project Report, and Debriefing.

1. Pre-Departure Orientation

The Pre-Departure Orientation is structured as a hybrid of online learning, personal study, and mentor connections to prepare you for cross-cultural service with the Internship and with tools for discerning your own life-work and calling. Before you depart to serve the field project, you are expected to complete the ten pre-departure lessons, including short video interviews, brief readings and written responses, and one-on-one meetings with your assigned Mentor.

Through the pre-departure lessons, Interns cultivate a spirit of prayer and partnership to faithfully fulfill the objectives and goals of the internship, seeking a balance of task and relationships in a cross-cultural setting. Students and Mentors focus together on the various themes related to cross-cultural missional internships addressed in the lessons. See the Academic Requirements section for an outline of the pre-departure lesson topics, content, and assignments.

2. Enculturation

Upon arrival, your Host will serve as your official interface with the Internship. Your Host will introduce you to people you will be working with, including the Internship Leader, and to the historical, cultural, practical, and spiritual components of the project and community in which you will be working. Your schedule will include working alongside staff and volunteers of the Internship. You will complete a community mapping exercise shortly after arrival.

3. Assessment

The Assessment phase typically lasts the first several days of your time serving the Internship. Before deciding what you will write for the Internship Report, you will need to take some time to assess the needs and the contribution you might make through a formal proposal to the Project Leader. It is important that you develop relationships, listen, pray, and observe. By doing so, you will begin to hear the real needs of the people. Your daily schedule will be determined in coordination with the Internship Leader.

In addition to your regular schedule, you will meet with your Mentor, complete an Interview Activity, begin to gather information about the assets and needs of your host community, and submit a proposal for your Internship Report to your Internship Leader.

4. Final Project Report

The Field Project Report is the capstone of your Converge experience. For your Final Project Report, you will design a project addressing a particular need of your host community. The Field Project Report, which builds upon the assignments from the Enculturation and Assessment phases, will typically take several days to complete and may be submitted as a written report or take a non-traditional form, such as a podcast, video, or website.

5. Debriefing

During the last few days, you will complete and submit your Final Project Report. You will have one more interview by the Host (or appointed supervisor) and your Mentor to reflect upon your internship and overall learning experience in the program. It is during these final days on the field, you will bid farewell to your host and host community. Before you return home, you will be asked to complete a final reflection as well as an online exit evaluation of the Converge experience, your Mentor, and the Final Project Report.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Successful completion of the Converge course includes completion of the graded assignments listed below. You will be awarded a grade evaluation upon completion. A transcript can be issued to your college or university upon receipt of your signed transcript request form and transcript fee. (Go to uofn.edu for details.)

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Points	Assignment	Completion Deadline
10	Covenant for Service & Learning	Lesson 1
20	Pre-Departure Responses (10 responses at 2 points each)	Throughout Pre-Departure Orientation; Completed in full prior to departure
10	Mentor Reflections (2 reflections at 5 points each)	During Pre-Departure Orientation (Lessons 3 and 10)
10	Mapping Exercise	End of Enculturation Phase
10	Interview Assignment	Beginning of Assessment Phase
10	Project Proposal	End of Assessment Phase
25	Final Project Report	Beginning of Debrief Phase
5	Debrief Reflection	End of Debrief Phase
100	Total Points	

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

In this section, you will find a description and requirements for each assignment. Written assignments should be written in standard English with accurate grammar and mechanics. Slang and informal acronyms should be avoided. Written work should be submitted in a standard 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial, etc.) with standard margins and spacing and a title page including your name, assignment title, the course name, and the date.

While there is no proscribed citation and formatting method required for your assignments in this course, please use a standard method with which you are familiar and make sure that for your final assignment, any sources you use from your research are cited and listed appropriately on a Bibliography page, credits, or an appropriate comparable alternative.

Covenant Assignment

Converge is a global learning community including Interns, Hosts, and Mentors from a wide variety of YWAM sponsored internship opportunities with different organizations around the world. To prepare for an effective serving and learning experience, we find it is important to prayerfully write out a learning and serving covenant, which describes your vision and identifies your commitment to personal disciplines and practices of prayer, work and study, and relationships. The Covenant Assignment should be a clearly articulated 100 to 200 commitment to your personal service and learning objectives for this experience. This assignment is submitted in Lesson 1.

Example: "I seek to know and to obey God's voice. I seek to encourage others through my words, my attitude, and my actions. To do this, I commit to the following: speaking words of kindness and showing patience; sharing and being accountable to my Mentor; working faithfully and praying for the leaders and the community at the project I will be serving. I will do all of this for the sake of God's Glory and for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom."

Pre-Departure Responses

Each pre-departure lesson includes a 2-point discussion board response component that you are responsible for sharing on the appropriate forum of the discussion board. Your response should be thoughtfully considered and articulated. The response is not meant to be written in formal academic writing, but it should be also not be overly casual or using informal acronyms. You are responsible for posting

thoughtful, reflective responses to *at least* two other Interns, unless otherwise noted. Please avoid simple statements of agreement or disagreement. Your responses should be complete ideas that build upon the posts of your peers. They should reflect a deep level of engagement with the lesson content.

Mentor Reflections

There are two mentor reflections, each worth 5 points, built into the discussion board responses during pre-departure orientation during Lessons 3 and 10. These should be clearly articulated and thoughtful reflections on the impact of your mentor relationship on your learning and preparation. This is not designed to be an evaluation of the mentor himself or herself, but a personal reflection of the experience. Describe what you have gained from the experience, what you expect from the experience, and any questions you might have for your mentor at that point.

Mapping Exercise

The Community Mapping Assignment, worth 10 points, is an activity that will help you get acquainted with your host community and begin to engage with members of the community. It will be submitted during the short Enculturation Phase, and you should familiarize yourself with its requirements prior to traveling so you may communicate early with your Host and make any necessary arrangements before you arrive. It is designed to be a *preliminary* activity that will result in a basic visual map of the community's layout, infrastructure, important sites, and assets, as well as begin to point you in the direction of a topic for your final project. However, it is not designed to be a comprehensive map, as full-scale community mapping exercises tend to take months or even years to complete, not to mention extensive resources, personnel, and expertise.

The first component of this assignment is a visual map which may be presented in any digital format – perhaps as a re-creation using mapping or graphic software, or something as simple as a digital photograph of the map completed by hand during your mapping exercise with the community. You should use symbols and a key to make the map as clear as possible.

Second, you will include a brief (roughly ½ page) reflection on what you learned from the experience, what information you gained and still hope to obtain, and how the assignment will help you as you develop your Final Report.

Interview Assignment

The Interview Assignment will be completed early in the Assessment Phase. For this assignment, worth 10 points, you will design a research tool to help you obtain information leading to the development of your proposal and, eventually, your Final Report. Your tool should be either an interview or focus group design and should use the following steps:

Plan. Select participants and design the tool. Be prepared with follow-up questions, knowing that you will need to adapt as appropriate when you actually conduct the research. The following components will be included in the assignment submission:

- The name(s) of the intended and actual participant(s), and for a focus group, a description of the group demographics.
- A very brief rationale for the selection of the participant(s).
- A planned series of 7-10 guiding questions for your research activity.

Implement. Make appointments with the participant(s) and conduct your interview or focus group. Make sure to take accurate notes and using quotations for exact quotes. Make sure to begin by explaining the purpose of the activity and obtaining consent for using names, quotes, and the information provided. Participants should have the option of not being directly quoted and of anonymity. After you have undertaken the activity, organize the information obtained and include major points and quotes in the submitted assignment. You may organize your information around the original questions or emerging themes.

Reflect. Finally, write a brief reflection about the activity, particularly in terms of what was effective or ineffective in your methods and how the information compared to your expectations. How might you adjust your questions or methods for the next interview or focus group? Did any themes emerge that may influence what you select for your Final Report?

Project Proposal

At the end of the Assessment Phase, before beginning your final project, you will need to submit and gain approval for the project you would like to design. Once you feel that you have gained enough information from your research to select a topic for your Final Project, write a one-page proposal stating:

1. A brief summary of the topic you chose and project you will design
2. The reason you feel that the project is relevant
3. How the project will be empowering to the community and draw on its existing assets

Once you feel comfortable with the proposal, discuss it with your Mentor and submit it to your Host (or assigned supervisor). Once approved, submit the proposal on the Assessment page of the Converge course.

Final Report

For this assignment, worth 25 points, you will design a project that could be implemented in your host community. You will articulate objectives and goals and anticipate the resources you would need and challenges you might face if you were to implement it. Keep in mind this guiding question: *"If I were to move to this community, what would I do to empower the community and make a difference for the glory of God?"*

Your final assignment may take a traditional form such as a document written in Word, or it may be a non-traditional submission, such as a photo-journal, podcast, website, or video. Whatever form it takes, it should include the following components:

- Introduction – describing your internship experience and the community you worked with
- Vision and Objectives – explaining the purpose of the project, how your sense of calling and/or your training have influenced it, and how it will empower the host community
- Project Overview – articulating measurable goals and actions, as well as how success will be measured
- Resource Requirements – identifying material, financial, human, and other resources required and how you will obtain them
- Description of Challenges – anticipating potential obstacles and a plan for overcoming them
- Conclusion and Reflection – summarizing the purpose, actions, needs, and impact of the project and describing what you have learned through your internship, research, and developing your project

A more detailed description of each component can be found on the course website.

Debrief Reflection

The Debrief Reflection is your final discussion board post, worth 5 points, and written at the end of your internship. You will begin by briefly describing your internship, including a synopsis of what you did throughout each week. Share about one or two difficulties you face and anything unexpected that happened and what God taught you during this time. You will also reflect upon a series of questions that tie your internship experience to the overall course learning goals. You are encouraged, but not required, to respond to your peers on the discussion board.

EVALUATION

You will be evaluated for each assignment by the course instructor(s). Evaluation will be based upon the requirements described in this syllabus as well as any additional details that may be found on the online Converge course. A final grade will be issued upon completion of the course.

PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION OUTLINE

Timeline	Topic	Description
Prior to start of course	Start Here	An overview of the Converge experience, the Course, Mentor and Host relationships, and logistical requirements for the internship.
Week 1	The Changing Face of Missions	Western Missions as we know it is changing, and so must our approach and perspective. There is a shift in the type of relationships those in missions should have with locals, and there is an increasing emphasis upon students using their majors or fields of study in missions.
Week 1	Understanding History	The history of missions is one of obedience and passion, the willingness of ordinary people to suffer and sacrifice and live incarnationally to bring lasting change as they serve God. Understanding history, context, and true passion is critical to understanding and transforming communities.
Week 2	Prayer and Priorities	Prayer and intercession are integral components of personal faith and effective missions. In this lesson, you will learn the principles of effective intercession and hear about the influence of prayer in missions movements.
Week 2	Knowing and Hearing God	Knowing God is more than knowing your Bible. When we know the author of the Bible, we read his words and they are life to us. God has promised that we can hear his voice. This lesson will discuss principles for deepening our relationship with God and learning to hear his voice.
Week 3	Biblical Worldview	Biblical worldview is the perspective of all reality from the viewpoint of Christ and his kingdom, grounded in the Word of God. This lesson will explore the Christian Magna Carta, a document based upon Biblical worldview and will discuss how having this perspective impacts the way we view ourselves and respond to others.
Week 3	Right Relationships	In missions, like in our personal lives, it is important to develop and maintain right relationships with others. The Bible is our foundation for the way we relate to others. In this lesson, you will discuss the "Ministry of Reconciliation" we are all called to.
Week 4	Crossing Cultures	Culture is complex. It is expressed in the language of a people, and it is formed by the history, the geographical landscape, and the influences of surrounding peoples. Context, the "messianic complex," enculturation, and culture shock are discussed.
Week 4	Justice and the Greatness of God	Poverty is an enormous issue that goes far beyond the world's definition of economic poverty. It has to do with broken relationships with self, resources, other people, and most importantly, God. God's greatness and justice as they relate to poverty and our relationships are explored in this lesson.
Week 5	Calling	Calling is engagement with the world in response to God. It begins with a relationship with God, the calling to know him. As you abide in Christ, appreciating his goodness, he sends you out into the world as a witness, and expression of his character and ways, and there are many ways he calls his children to represent him. In this lesson, you will explore your calling and how it will affect the way you approach your internship.
Prior to departure	Final Reflections	You will reflect upon what you have learned and look ahead to your internship and the next phases of the Converge experience.