

Internships in VVOB programmes 2023 - 2024

Educational research on teacher professional development and/or school leadership

Summary of the internship

The traineeship aims to support evaluation and research activities in one of two VVOB programmes in the country. These programmes are aimed at strengthening early grade reading instruction and learning through play in early childhood development. Both focus on evaluating the effectiveness and scalability of alternative approaches to teacher/practitioner professional development and school leadership. These approaches include online / blended professional development and learning in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

You will be involved in the pilot stages of research and evaluation activities of one of the programmes. Depending on the timing of your internship this could include activities at baseline or midline data collection. There will be opportunities to engage on implementation activities of the project as well.

You are training for a Masters' degree in Social Sciences (Education, Sociology, Pedagogy or similar). Specific qualities we are looking for:

- Familiar with educational research
- Pragmatic and solution oriented
- Strong English speaking and writing skills

Ideal duration of the internship: minimum 3 months

1. Location

Country	South Africa
Town	Pretoria or Durban
Partner / Institute	VVOB
Department	Research

2. Period

Minimum 3 months

3. Terms of Reference

Objectives of the internship	The intern will complement what was learned in their studies with insights, ideas and approaches of South Africa. The intern will contribute to evaluation and research activities in one of two VVOB programmes in the country. These programmes are aimed at strengthening early grade reading instruction and learning through play in early childhood development. Both focus on evaluating the effectiveness and scalability of alternative approaches to teacher/practitioner professional development. These approaches include online / blended professional development and learning in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).
Expected Results	Depending on the timing of the internship, the intern will

	<p>contribute to research activities related to the piloting stage of one of VVOB's programmes in South Africa.</p> <p>This could include a range of research activities contributing to baseline or midline data collection and related learning processes.</p> <p>The intern will contribute to VVOB's communications e.g. by developing social media messages about the research interventions / findings.</p>			
Planned activities and time frame	Activity	M1	M2	M3
	Orientation, final framework of specific scope of internship	x		
	Implementation which may include data collection and/or analysis.	x	x	X
	Reporting and formulation of action points / points for follow-up; presented in a session with key VVOB team members			x
	Possible contribution to VVOB's external communication related to the research (e.g. through writing an article and/or social media post			x
Equity component of internship	<p>The VVOB programmes in South Africa aim to improve the competences of teachers and school leaders in primary schools and early childhood centres to respond to the great inequalities in the education system. Particular attention is given to improving early grade reading instruction and learning-through-play for young learners in disadvantaged contexts.</p> <p>Equity, gender and environmental sustainability cut across all VVOB's projects and programmes.</p>			

4. Support

Working environment	VVOB office in Pretoria and/or Durban
Position in the program/institution	Research intern
Name Supervisor	Sahar Mohy-Ud-Din, Strategic Education Advisor M&E and Research

5. Minimum requirements

Expertise	Educational research Proficient in English (written and spoken)
Profile	In training for a Masters' degree in Social Sciences (Education, Sociology, Pedagogy or similar) Specific qualities we are looking for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Familiar with educational research •Pragmatic and solution oriented •Strong English speaking and writing skills
Required / Preferred preparation	Getting familiar with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Educational context in South Africa •VVOB programmes in South Africa •VVOB's theory of change, roles of technical assistants,

	<p>capacity development methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Read online information about VVOB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ www.vvob.be ○ www.southafrica.vvob.be
Duo-attachment possible?	yes
Preferential or reserved attachment in the context of a Structural Partnership?	UGENT

6. Working conditions

Workload	40hrs/week
Leave days / days off	2.5 days per month + weekends and public holidays
Required language skills	English
Transport	Car, taxi, Uber/Bolt Home-work transport is the responsibility of the intern. VVOB will cover the cost of travel for work-related assignments
Possibilities accommodation	A range of options through e.g. airBnB in both Durban and Pretoria
Estimated general costs	Accommodation: min 5400 ZAR/month Living costs: min 4000 ZAR/month Car rental: approx.. 400 ZAR/day

7. Comments

- Minimum duration of 3 full months – visa required for stays exceeding 3 months (see 'vertrekkersgids' for guidance)
- It is important that the student is highly independent and takes initiative both in practical matters and social life. The support provided by VVOB staff is mostly limited to work assignments, though VVOB provides some assistance and guidance on practical matters during the first days after arrival. Advice is given as requested by the intern.