

Floristry Internship Information Sheet

Mississippi State University
Retail Floristry Management

MSU Floristry Internship

The purpose of the Mississippi State University Floristry Internship is to allow students to gain horticultural/floral industry experience during their degree program. Mississippi State is currently one of three US universities offering a Baccalaureate degree in Horticulture with emphasis in Retail Floristry Management. The Floristry Internship is viewed as an enriching experience where students may apply previously learned information to a professional setting. The intern will bring new information and skills back to the classroom, enhancing their university learning.

Employers are requested to offer interns a wide range of job tasks so that the student gains a well-rounded view of company operations, tasks, and philosophies. There is great diversity in the types of businesses found in the floral industry. Similarly, student interns are permitted to work in many facets of the floral industry including traditional retail outlets, special event firms, wholesaling, wire service, floral publications, product development, botanical gardens, interiorscape enterprises and other areas.

Student Responsibilities

Students enrolled in the Floristry Internship must complete 480 hours of work experience at an approved site or sites. This is equivalent to 12 weeks of full-time (40-hour/week) employment. Other responsibilities include the completion and submission of

- Completed Agreement Form prior to the first day of work
- An updated resume (10% of final grade)
- Employee/Employer Internship Agreement (form, 30% of final grade)
- Weekly reports of duties performed (form, 30% of final grade)
- Internship Report (30% of final grade)

Employer Responsibilities

The employer plays an integral role in the professional development of the student. Employers are asked to provide an enriching, stimulating work environment. A valuable internship challenges the mind and ability of the student.

Employers are asked to pay the intern a wage mutually agreeable with the intern. Assistance in housing locations is appreciated when requested by the intern. The employer is requested to evaluate the student intern at the end of the semester (form, 30% of intern's final grade).

As is true in the floral industry, any job applicant will have varying degrees of skill and knowledge. MSU faculty request employers interview the potential intern and gain an understanding of the student's expectations and abilities. Employers are encouraged to require potential interns create designs for evaluation or answer questions regarding floral shop or other business enterprise encounters.

For further information, contact Dr. Jim DelPrince (662) 325-1965 jdelprince@pss.msstate.edu or Mrs. Lynette McDougald (662) 325-1963 lmcdougald@pss.msstate.edu or the University Florist shop at (662) 325-3585.