

Internship Program at the Waseda University Faculty of Sport Sciences

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Abstract

Behind the establishment of the Waseda University School of Sport Science lies a variety of social expectations. As we deepen the study of sports by adopting various scientific methods, we are eager to equip the new Waseda Men and Women with a sports mindset and a wide-ranging understanding of scientific education. Our school consists of the Department of Sports Medical Science and the Department of Sports Culture which, in turn, are comprised of the following seven courses: Sports Medical Science, Health and Sports, Sports Training, Sports Culture, Sports Business, Sports Education and Top Performance.

The type of internship program is determined by the department in which the student is enrolled. “Practical Training in Sport Business” is offered for third year students in the Department of Sports Culture, and “Practical Training in Fitness Promotion” is offered for interested third year students in the Department of Sports Medical Science.

Based on the premise that enrolling students already have a basic understanding of sports business, “Practical Training in Sports Business” offers students the opportunity to experience the value of the sports business and to study practical business routines through hands-on experience in manufacturing and marketing of sports equipment, schooling, club administration, advertising and other activities.

Practical training in Fitness Promotion is aimed at students with a basic understanding of health and sports and offers them the opportunity to experience the value of health and sports and to study training techniques through hands-on experience in health enhancement and preventive approaches to long-term care by promoting exercise, sports and physical activities.

The organizations where students were placed for internships and the number of students accepted in 2006 were as follows: professional sports clubs/teams (9), professional sports organizations/associations (5), sport manufacturers (6), mass media (2), a PR company (1), a fitness club (1), a sports association (1), a sports facility (1), and a sports commission (1), for a total of 27 students. The Los Angeles Dodgers, a Major League baseball team in the United States, was introduced into our internship program at the suggestion of Mr. Peter O’Malley, the previous owner of the team, when the School of Sport Sciences was established.

Evaluations are based on a calculation of the results from pre-internship lectures/seminars, practical training attendance rates, training journals, evaluations by the organization of placement and practical training reports, in which a quantified figure is determined out of a scale of 100 according to a predetermined formula. The number of days of practical training was 15.2 days in 2005 and 13.6 days in 2006, while the attendance rate was 98.0% in 2005 and 96.3% in 2006. The evaluation form given to the organizations of placement is based on a scale of 1 to 5 which is used to rate satisfaction.

At this stage, our internship program is still just two years old; however, we have not had any major complications up until this point. Yet, due to the limited number of organizations for internship placement and the limited number of students that they can accept, we were unable to facilitate internships for all students who desired to participate. Therefore, our goal for the future is to overcome the following challenges:

- 1) Expansion of the number and variety of organizations
- 2) Thorough educational training for the enrolled students in business manners and other subjects
- 3) Improvement in general communication between students who have completed internships and those preparing for participation
- 4) Simplification of office procedures