

Econ 795 Internship in Economics

Fall 2021
Prof. Kangoh Lee
NH 319
(619)594-8496
klee@sdsu.edu

1. Course Description: Economics 795 is a professional career experience, requiring about 150 hours of work for 15 weeks. Students work and learn in internship jobs in which they can apply economic theory and tools.

2. Course Objectives/learning outcomes: This course is intended to provide students with the opportunity to apply their classroom learning and knowledge and to gain real-world experience. Upon completion, students should be able to understand how to apply economics knowledge and tools and the structure and function of the workplace, thereby developing and expanding their career options.

3. Internship Jobs

A. Acceptable internships

Generally speaking, professionally-meaningful placements are accepted. That is, acceptable internships must have economics components, and you should be able to apply your economics knowledge and skills, regardless of whether your employer is a government agency or a private business or a corporation or a non-profit organization. As in Section 4-D below, an economic analysis of your work is required, and your internship should be suitable for such analysis. Internships that are **not** acceptable include, but not limited to, simple clerical and office management jobs such as answering phones and managing files (paper or electronic), retail sales and tele-marketing jobs, and cashier jobs at stores.

B. Securing your internship job

Students are responsible for securing their internship job. It is desirable that students have already secured their internship job at the time when they submit the required forms, mentioned in Section 4-A below. If not, I urge students to find an internship job as early as possible, so that they can complete their internship on time and earn academic credit.

The best way to find one is to use the SDSU Career Services website, <http://career.sdsu.edu/>. Create your account, and login to Aztec Career Connection. A large number of jobs are available, and choose the “internship” category.

I also encourage you to contact SDSU career services (619)-594-6851, careerservices@sdsu.edu, SSE-1200) to learn about resume-writing skills and interview tips.

4. Course requirements

A. submit all required forms and internship contracts

Your internship will not start until all forms below are submitted to me.

- (i) Waiver and Release of Liability Form: submit it as soon as possible, and no add code will be given without the complete form.
- (ii) Economics Internship Contract: Submit it as soon as you have obtained an internship.
- (iii) ISQ (Internship Site Questionnaire): Once you obtain an internship, I will email your employer the ISQ, and your employer should sign it and send it to me.
- (iv) SLA (Service Learning Agreement): Once I receive the ISQ from your employer, I will email your employer the SLA, and your employer should sign it and send it to me.

Forms, (i) and (ii), are posted on my website, <https://klee.sdsu.edu/> (click Econ 795 in the Teaching section).

B. meeting with the instructor

Economics 795 does not meet in a classroom regularly. At the same time, Economics 795 is not an online course, and students are expected to meet the instructor to discuss their progress and to discuss their reports and economic analysis below, in Section D-2. Students are required to meet the instructor to discuss the economic analysis report at least two weeks before the deadline. Students of course can request a meeting with the instructor whenever they need.

C. at least about 150 hours of professionally-meaningful work

D. Final report: The final report has two parts, and should be at least 5000 words.

D-1: general report (10% of the final report): due by 5:00 p.m. on December 5, 2021. Submit it via email attachments.

In part 1, describe your achievements and your contributions to the organization during your internship, and discuss how your economics knowledge and skills help you achieve and contribute, (ii) describe and discuss skills and knowledge you have learned from your internship, and (iii) address how you or your supervisor or organization could have made the internship a better experience. In the report, give actual examples of each point you describe or discuss.

D-2: economic analysis (90% of the final report): due by 5:00 p.m. on December 5, 2021. Submit it via email attachments.

In part 2, provide an economic analysis of any economically meaningful work during your internship. In particular, the analysis must (i) establish a meaningful economic hypothesis you develop from your internship work (the hypothesis should be based on your observations and economic theory), (ii) obtain data from your internship work to test the hypothesis, (iii) test your hypothesis using econometric analysis, (iv) interpret your econometric results from an economic

perspective, and (v) make recommendations to your employer based on your econometric analysis.

Submit your do file and data file along with the report.

It is a violation of academic integrity to submit a term paper you already submitted or plan to submit to another class, and your internship final report must be based on your internship job and your data must be from your internship job. It is also a serious violation of academic integrity to use the economic analysis in this course for other classes. The violations will be handled according to university policies.

It may take some time to refine the idea and to analyze statistically or quantitatively. To avoid any delay in completing your report, I strongly suggest that you meet and communicate with me regularly about your idea and progress. You may have to revise your report, and try to submit your report or see me at least two weeks before the deadline, so that I can help you and you would have enough time to revise before the deadline. As you may need data to revise after you leave your internship, you need to secure data before you leave your internship.

D-3. structure of report

I suggest that you structure your report as follows:

1. general report

2. economic analysis

2-A. introduction: discuss the importance of the issue you analyze in relation to your employer's business

2-B. hypothesis: discuss the rationale for your hypothesis, and rationale for other control variables.

2-C. data: explain your data and variables, and include summary statistics and explain it.

2-D. empirical analysis: regression results and the interpretation of the results

2-E. implications: discuss the implications of empirical analysis for your employer's business

2-F. shortcomings: discuss the shortcomings of analysis such as data limitation

E. Supervisor's written evaluation of student's work: due by 5:00 p.m. on December 5, 2021.

Have your supervisor send it to me via email attachments. The evaluation is confidential, and your supervisor, not you, has to send it to me.

Use the Supervisor's Evaluation Form, posted on my website. It is your responsibility to have your supervisor send me the complete form.

5. Grade

To earn a CR, students must satisfy all A-E requirements in Section 4 above.

6. Econ 798 Option

You may take Econ 798 (Special Study) in lieu of Econ 795. If you choose this option, **you must register for Econ 798, not Econ 795**. This option is not automatic, and you have to petition to replace Econ 795 by Econ 798 to Graduate Affairs, and they have approved in the past.

Econ798 is basically an individual research class between you and a professor. You need to find a professor willing (and able) to supervise your independent study, and the professor and you together decide the expectations of the course. In general, to enroll in 798, you must have a fairly focused idea of your research and find a professor to supervise your research. One suggestion may be to develop a research idea from a course you took and to contact the professor who taught.

Note that you can register only after you obtain an add code from a professor.