

Internships as a Channel of Knowledge Transfer in the Opole Region (Poster)

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This paper presents the internship component of a survey of full-time students carried out by the Maestros de la Economia student research circle at Opole University of Technology. Fewer students complete an internship than take casual work, although the reasons they give for choosing an internship are developmental rather than financial. The paper sets out what students expect from a placement, what they want from host organisations and how much time they are able to commit. On this basis we argue that the shortfall has more to do with the number of placements available in the region than with the level of student interest. The second part of the paper looks at cultural and heritage institutions in Opole and the surrounding area as possible hosts. Museums, theatres, archives and the organisers of local festivals work in ways that correspond closely to what students describe wanting from a placement, yet they take on comparatively few interns. We treat internships here as a practical mechanism of knowledge transfer between universities and heritage institutions, and discuss what would be required for it to work. The paper relates to the conference theme of education, knowledge transfers and practice.

