Problem Based Internship in Surveying and Planning Curricula

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Inspiration for internship as a study element

- Inspiration from graduate engineers from the AAU.
- Here it has, for a number of years, been possible to carry through an internship.
- The internship has contributed to disseminate the knowledge of the graduate engineers from the AAU.
- It has also given the students a good insight into the work tasks and development needs of the enterprises.

Innovation

- The internship semester has not been established to recreate the ‘apprenticeship’.
- It is an explicit purpose to create a platform for closer inter-play between practice, research and education.
- When the students have finished the first year on their Master programme they are well equipped with the latest knowledge within the single research based teaching fields.
- After this, they will have a good basis for developing their ability in an internship course to understand and work up problems from the real working life.
- And with this foundation the contents of the final projects are supposed to be marked by the insight that the students have obtained into the development wishes of the enterprises.
- The students combine their own theoretical skills and in this way create not only theoretical solutions in their projects, but also create solutions that can be used. A modern work for this is innovation.

The first class

1. Internship site
2. Project subject

- The Secretariat for the Agricultural Commission in Northern Jutland
- The Municipality of Aalborg, Technical Services Centre
- The Secretariat for the Agricultural Commission in the County of Southern Jutland
- Sven Allan Jensen’s Urban Planning Practice
- Private company: Chartered Surveyors, Slagelse
- COWI A/S international consulting group. Aalborg Dept.
- The Chartered Surveyor’s firm Søren Lange, Aalborg
- Leica Geosystems A/S
- The Chartered Surveyor’s firm Nellemann & Bjørnkjær
- The Chartered Surveyor’s firm Hvenegaard A/S
- The Municipality of Egtved
- Ministry of Agriculture, Land Consolidation Office in Tønder

Pictures from internship
Lesson Learned.

- The students
  - found them selves well qualified to the internship and meet the professional tasks and challenges in the internship.
  - were able to follow and take part in the daily work in the companies and offices.
  - felt that they have to be very motivated to go through an internship.
  - felt it was necessary to devote on self to the internship.
  - Need to mobilize personal resources.
- For several of the student they felt very well prepared for doing the studywork in the thesis.
- It was very fascination to realize that they were able personally to meet the challenges as individuals – without the security in the group work known from the university.
- The students have to be aware of using the possibilities at the concrete firm, company or office.
- For many days in the internship it was long days with hard works and very often it was necessary to be at the office also in the nights.
- Following Summer all – except 2 – got a job before defending masterthesis.