



European University
Enterprise Network

Description of practical placement situation in Turkey

Author:

Middle East Technical University, Turkey – S. Engin KILIÇ, Department of Mechanical Engineering

In Turkey, the Practical Placement (PP) in higher education institutions is regulated by the Act for Higher Education Law No. 2547. Each University, each faculty and each department; however, has its own set of regulations within the framework of that law. These regulations are prepared according to the requirements of each discipline. In general, with a few exceptions, PP is compulsory part of the curricula of the undergraduate programs. The durations, levels and credit hours for PP show a wide range of variations from one university to the other as well as from one program to the other at the same university. At the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Middle East Technical University, undergraduate students have non-credit, 7-day ME orientation course to take two weeks before the start of the next academic year after completing their first year at the university without a prerequisite. The students are required to do a four-week summer training at a recognized industrial company to become acquainted with manufacturing processes at the shop level. This course has a prerequisite course on the manufacturing technologies. The students are required to submit a formatted report upon completing their practice and graded by the responsible person at the company. The reports are evaluated by the department staff. The students are also required to do another four-week, non-credit summer practice at a recognized institute/company to practice either managerial, engineering and production activities or R/D activities after completing their third year. The second year practice; however, is a prerequisite for this practice. The students are required to be graded by their supervisors at the institutes/companies and submit a report to be evaluated by the department staff. It is also possible for the students to do long summer practices of 3 months at certain companies especially for their PP after their third year. Some selected fourth year students can have a part-time work at some large companies in their R7D projects as assistant researchers/engineers. These are not compulsory. The PP learning objectives and outcomes, length, credit points (CP) allocation, themes and evaluation methodology are described in the PP syllabus in the same manner and level of detail as for any other subject in the curriculum.

The students eligible to do their summer practice should apply to the student's affairs unit. They can find their own placement or apply for a placement announced by the department. The students notify the unit with the name of the establishment and the dates in which the practice will be done and given with a set of documents addressing the establishment before starting their practice. The students may or may not be paid during their practice. If the placement is done through the Association of the chambers of Industry and Commerce, the students may be paid with 15TL/day.