



# Field Education Internship Manual

**Moody Theological Seminary**  
820 N. LaSalle Blvd, Chicago, IL 60610

**Moody Theological Seminary**

Daniel Thorpe, PhD Candidate

Adjunct Professor

Field Education Instructor

[daniel.thorpe@moody.edu](mailto:daniel.thorpe@moody.edu)

Welcome:.....	4
Moody Mission Statement .....	5
Contribution of Field Education to MTS Values and Competencies.....	5
Internship Overview .....	6
Internship Defined .....	6
Degree Participation .....	6
Objectives .....	7
ATS Compliance .....	7
Structure and Requirements.....	8
Four Teaching Elements of Field Education .....	9
Required Ministry Commitment .....	10
Before You Apply for an Internship .....	10
Types of Internship Settings.....	10
Selecting a Proposed Site Supervisor .....	11
Requirements and Qualifications for Site Supervisors .....	11
Application Process .....	12
Roles of Internship Participants.....	12
Cooperating Ministry or Organization .....	12
Field Education Instructor.....	12
Intern .....	12
Site Supervisor .....	13
Mentoring Responsibilities .....	14
Mentoring Aspects.....	14
Theological Reflection.....	15
Code of Conduct .....	15
Requirements.....	15
MTS Student Life.....	15
Legal and Grievance Issues .....	16
Legal Issues .....	16
Grievance Procedure .....	16
Internship Changes .....	17
International Internships .....	17
Purpose .....	18
Application Process.....	18
Requirements and Information.....	19
Release of Liability .....	20
Contact Information .....	21



## WELCOME:

Welcome to Moody Theological Seminary Field Education. A significant part of your preparation for professional ministry takes place in a supervised ministry setting. Field Education at MTS fits into the mission of the Seminary by providing interns real-life, hands-on ministry experience. MTS is committed to training Bible interpreters who learn to handle the Word of God so that it affects their personal lives and empowers them to effectively communicate biblical truth to others.

A Ministry Internship is designed to develop ministry skills, discern one's calling to ministry, practice theological reflection, experience professional collegiality and undergo personal transformation.

**This Field Education Manual** provides the policies and practices that will guide your internship experience. You are responsible for reading and following these policies and practices carefully.

Moody Theological Seminary wants to provide an internship experience that allows you to grow in self-awareness, maturity, and competency in ministry.

You are about to start a truly life transforming educational experience as you move from classroom theory to ministry practice.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. We are here to help your internship to be everything you hope it to be. God bless you as you begin this phase of your ministry formation.

In Christ,

Prof. Daniel Thorpe

Daniel.thorpe@moody.edu

## MOODY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Moody Theological Seminary and Graduate School is to train Bible Interpreters, who will apply and incarnate biblical truth and minister and communicate that truth to others.

This mission statement is based on Ezra 7:10, “For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.” Therefore, at Moody Theological Seminary we purposefully resolve to fervently study the Scriptures, to practice them in daily life, and to teach others what we have learned.

The programs and degrees at Moody Theological Seminary seek to encourage a thirst for knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, obeying Him, increasing in Christ-like character, and serving Him effectively through the use of spiritual gifts. Toward this end, this program seeks to attain the following values and competencies:

### Contribution of Field Education to MTS Values and Competencies

<i><b>Value</b></i>	<i><b>Competency</b></i>	<i><b>Contribution</b></i>
<b>Academic:</b>		
1. Theological Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate an ability to objectively interpret and apply the Scriptures to life and ministry.</li> <li>• Understand and articulate the essential doctrines of evangelical/Christian belief.</li> </ul>	Foundational
2. Critical Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate Competency to conduct scholarly research, evidencing careful analysis and critical judgment.</li> <li>• Articulate and apply a biblical worldview to life.</li> </ul>	Foundational
<b>Professional:</b>		
1. Professional Competency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct appropriate ministry skills.</li> <li>• Integrate biblical knowledge to communicate or preach with accuracy and relevance.</li> <li>• Demonstrate a commitment to life-long learning.</li> </ul>	Essential
2. Supervised Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ministry skills under guided supervision.</li> </ul>	Essential
<b>Relational:</b>		
1. Spiritual Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display an ongoing desire to grow in Christ-like character.</li> <li>• Develop a passion for continued obedience to Christ and service to people.</li> </ul>	Foundational
2. Cultural Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exhibit an appreciation for cultural, theological, and denominational diversity in partnership with the church community in varied settings.</li> </ul>	Foundational

## INTERNSHIP OVERVIEW

---

Ministry is a hallmark value of Moody Bible Institute. For this reason, Moody Theological Seminary provides students the opportunity to combine academic studies with practical ministry experience. MTS students participate in the Field Education Program in a supervised ministry setting such as a church, hospital, college campus, social services agency, prison, and parachurch contexts.

### Internship Defined

Our definition of internship is “doing real-life, hands-on ministry in a safe setting that provides opportunity for the student to learn and to grow in both personhood and ministry skills through ministry leadership and reflective feedback.”--Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Theological Field Education Handbook p.4

#### **1. Real-life, hands-on ministry**

Ministry sites provide the context for integrating knowledge gained in the classroom with the practical demands of an actual ministry setting.

#### **2. Safe setting**

Although conflict is an inevitable part of ministry, we desire that the conflict situations occur within the context of a healthy and safe ministry setting.

#### **3. Opportunity to learn and grow**

By performing real-life ministry through internship, students learn and grow under the supervision of a Site Supervisor that guides, encourages, and holds them accountable.

#### **4. Character and ministry skills**

A quality internship is multi-dimensional and focuses on both character and ministry skill development. Character and ministry skills are complementary, not irreconcilable opposites.

#### **5. Ministry actions**

MTS desires that the students engage in actual ministry during their internships, not just shadowing other ministry practitioners. The goal is for them to experience in-the-trenches, close up, sometimes messy, awkward, and stretching ministry.

#### **6. Reflective feedback**

As students serve in their internship, we desire that they reflect upon their actions, growth, and learning. The discussion groups are small and student-centered to allow for reflection and application.

### Degree Participation

---

#### **MDiv,**

The MDiv program requires one (1) internship between 80-160 hours (5-10 hours a week for 16 weeks).

#### **MA,**

Consult the Academic Catalog for MA degree programs that require an internship.

## Objectives

---

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Integrate Christian character, exegetical, theological knowledge and leadership understanding learned in the classroom by having regular opportunities to think critically about ministry and engage in theological reflection.
2. Assess their overall readiness for ministry through a field internship self-assessment and Site Supervisor's final internship assessment.
3. Give evidence of growth in ministry specific skill sets and character formation evidenced by reports on the weekly meetings with the Site Supervisor.
4. Reflect on the intern's ministry calling, personal ministry vision and vocational plans as evidenced in the intern's final self-assessment.

## ATS Compliance

---

Moody Theological Seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). The Association has provided a standard by which Field Education programs are to be assessed. Based on their standard, MTS has adapted the following for The Field Education Program.

1. The goals adopted for an MDiv degree should be related to the institution's mission and foster student's knowledge of religious heritage, understanding of the cultural context, growth in spiritual depth and moral integrity, and capacity for ministerial and public leadership. (A.1.2.1)
2. The specific learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses, supervised ministry experiences, formation activities, and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program. (A.1.3.2)
3. The MDiv program should provide a breadth of exposure to the theological disciplines as well as a depth of understanding within those disciplines. It should educate students for a comprehensive range of pastoral responsibilities and skills by providing opportunities for the appropriation of theological disciplines, for deepening understanding of the life of the church, for ongoing intellectual and ministerial formation, and for exercising the arts of ministry. (A.2.1)
4. MA degree programs shall include (1) the capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and processes of the areas of specialized ministry; (2) skill in the design, implementation and assessment of ministry in these specialized areas; (3) an understanding of the various disciplines that undergird the area of specialized ministry; and (4) growth in personal and spiritual maturity. (B.1.2.1)
5. MA degree programs oriented toward specialized ministerial leadership should provide instruction in the wide range of theological disciplines as well as those disciplines critical for the practice of specialized ministry. Learning outcomes are to be congruent with the institution's mission and goals. (B.2.1)
6. The program shall provide structured opportunities to develop a comprehensive and discriminating understanding of the religious heritage. (A.2.2)

7. The program shall provide opportunities to develop a critical understanding of and creative engagement with the cultural realities and structures within which the church lives and carries out its mission. (A.2.3)
8. The program shall provide opportunities through which the student may grow in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness. Ministerial preparation includes concern with the development of capacities—intellectual and affective, individual and corporate, ecclesial and public—that are requisite to a life of pastoral leadership. (A.2.4.1 & B.3.3.3.2)
9. The program shall provide opportunities to assist students in developing commitment to Christian faith and life (e.g., expressions of justice, leadership development, the devotional life, evangelistic witness) in ways consistent with the overall goal and purpose of the institution's MDiv program. (A.2.4.2 & B.2.5)
10. The program shall specifically provide for training in professional and ministerial ethics. (A.2.5.2)
11. The program shall provide theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministry. These activities should cultivate the capacity for leadership in both ecclesial and public contexts. (A.2.5)
12. The program shall provide for courses in the areas of ministry practice and shall ensure a constructive relationship among courses dealing primarily with the practice of ministry and courses dealing primarily with other subjects. (A.2.5.1)
13. The program shall provide opportunities for education through supervised experiences in ministry. These experiences should be of sufficient duration and intensity to provide opportunity to gain expertise in the tasks of ministerial leadership within both the congregation and the broader public context and to reflect on interrelated theological, cultural, and experiential learning. (A.2.5.3)
14. Qualified persons shall be selected as field supervisors and trained in supervisory methods and the education expectations of the institution. (A.2.5.4 & B.2.5.2)
15. The institution shall have established procedures for selection, development, evaluation, and termination of supervised ministry settings. (A.2.5. & B.2.5.3)

## Structure and Requirements

---

- All internships must be discussed and approved by the Field Education Instructor prior to the commencement of the internship.
- The student's internship shall correlate with the emphasis of his or her program or desired ministry outcome.
- The internship program is designed to fit in a 16-week semester. The only exceptions to these parameters are international internships that have been approved by the Field Education Instructor prior to the internship application and during the summer semester (10 weeks).
- Interns should commit to 5-10 hours per week during the entirety of the internship. The exception to this is summer semester internships which are 8-12 hours per week.



- Students who are in their first semester at MTS cannot take an internship course; a student must have a minimum of 40 percent of their degree program before they may register for an internship course.

## Four Teaching Elements of Field Education

---

MTS values a field education experience that involves (1) instructing, (2) modeling, (3) observing, and (4) evaluating.

Each element is crucial to the formation of the student. Field education should cause the intern to grow in both ability and attitude. The Site Supervisor should seek to equip the intern in becoming a more well-balanced and mature person. The four phases listed above have proven effective for equipping the student for ministry.

The internship shall have unique goals according to the particular program and ministry. The Site Supervisor and intern should set goals according to the purpose and personalities of the people involved. As character development is a major part of the MTS's philosophy of education, the internship shall have some goals focused on the development of character. *Equipping an intern solely with ministry skills is not the goal of an internship; rather the goal is to incorporate ministry skills with growth in attitudes, values, motivation and beliefs, since ministry that pleases God flows from the heart.*

These four elements are important in meeting the stated objectives, so please keep these guidelines in mind throughout your internship.

### Instructing

The Site Supervisor aids the intern in adjusting to the ministry setting, policies and procedures of the ministry/organization, along with its biblical and theological foundations. Some instructing will be done during the weekly meeting between the Site Supervisor and the intern. Other instructing will occur during face-to-face ministry time. The Site Supervisor may wish to use seminars, reading, an expert consultant or other means for accomplishing the instructional part of the objective.

### Modeling

The Site Supervisor models ministry skills in the ministry setting. This component allows the intern to see a behavior or skill before being expected to reproduce it and assists in taking the intern from the theoretical understanding of ministry to practical, experiential learning.

### Observing

The Site Supervisor observes the intern demonstrating the modeled behavior and determines effectiveness while identifying areas needing improvement. The Site Supervisor should be sensitive to the fact that the ability to do something well is usually preceded by incompetence.

### Evaluating

Both the Site Supervisor and the intern evaluate what the intern has done. Good evaluation is constructive, helpful, honest and thorough. A review of previous materials covered may be needed. The Site Supervisor needs to communicate that he/she does not expect the intern to reach the highest level of proficiency yet continue to challenge the intern to develop.

## Required Ministry Commitment

---

The internship should be completed during one semester (16-weeks) with approximately 5-10 hours of ministry a week (weekly hours are flexible based on the ministry context).

Upon completion of the internship, the assigned Field Education Instructor will enter a grade taking into consideration the requirements outlined in the syllabus and completed assessment forms.

Additional Stipulations:

- Students should be mindful that internships require commitment, therefore it is advised that a student consider his/her courseload to be completed concurrently with the internship and adjust as needed.
- Students are cautioned not to take summer courses and field education summer internship at the same time.
- On-campus positions at MTS (Michigan or Chicago) are not eligible for internship credit. With the exception of teaching internships which can fall under the role of a Teaching Assistant or Faculty Assistant.

## BEFORE YOU APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP

---

**Students are expected to locate their own ministry internship sites and supervisors.** The Field Education Instructor may have ideas, but it is incumbent upon the student to be actively engaged in finding a place to serve. Some students may already be serving in a ministry and will wish to do their internship in that setting. While in other cases, the student may be searching for a specific internship ministry site. The following will help the intern to select an appropriate ministry internship site. The intern is advised that the selection and approval of a ministry site and Site Supervisor will likely take more time than expected.

\*NOTE: Moody Theological Seminary Field Education does not validate current or past ministry experience. If a student wishes to complete his/her internship in a current ministry setting, the student will be expected to complete the internship in an area not currently under the student's ministry responsibilities. Or, the student could choose to do a special project related to his/her ministry responsibilities (e.g., write a scope and sequence for youth curriculum, or develop a new ministry for your church, etc.).

## Types of Internship Settings

---

The following are suggestions, not an exhaustive list of potential ministry site types:

- **Church** (pastoring, preaching, teaching, arts/worship, children's or youth ministry, evangelism and outreach, etc.)
- **Parachurch Ministry** (service through a rescue mission, collegiate ministry, outreach to international students, crisis pregnancy center, etc.)
- **Other Types of Kingdom Organizations** (chaplaincy in a hospital or prison, ministry fund-raising through denominational entity, administering a community non-profit agency, etc.)

## Selecting a Proposed Internship Site

---

The following questions may be helpful when deciding on a potential internship site.

- Does this organization operate on a biblical, faith-based methodology?
- What other organizations, denominations or churches are connected with this ministry organization?
- How have you been able to see a purposeful integration of professional, personal, and theological understanding in the organization?
- How is this organization showing a willingness to meet the needs of those to whom they are ministering?
- Does this internship provide a setting where appropriate resources are available for the intern to meet ministry and education goals?
- Will the ministry leadership allow the intern to participate in parts or the whole ministry?

Before choosing a ministry site, it is strongly recommended that the intern visit at least 2-3 other potential internship sites. If the intern is pursuing a specialized ministry, this may be more challenging, but the intern should be well informed about other possibilities and the pros and cons of each option. Contact other potential sites and arrange to spend some time there, not just tour or visit. Focus on assessing the staff interactions and the working environment of each ministry.

It is imperative that the intern knows as much as possible about the internship site before selecting it as the chosen internship. During the application process, the Field Education Instructor may do a background check on the internship site in order to approve the ministry setting.

It is also necessary to disclose all pertinent information about your site to the Field Education Instructor before the beginning of the internship. The Field Education Instructor must give written consent to any activities that you wish to count as internship hours that take place outside of the screened and approved ministry and/or the supervision of your approved Site Supervisor. This includes working at sister/daughter churches or ministries, visiting homes, organized mission trips, and any other ministries done outside the approved ministry establishment.

## Selecting a Proposed Site Supervisor

---

This should be the primary person to supervise the intern as he or she serves in the ministry, to evaluate the progress of the intern and provide feedback in the internship process. You are required to meet one hour per week in a one-on-one supervisory session with the Site Supervisor during the entire time of the internship experience.

## Requirements and Qualifications for Site Supervisors

---

The Site Supervisor must be approved by MTS before they can take on the internship. If the person the intern selects to be the Site Supervisor does not meet the qualifications or seems like he/she cannot meet all the responsibilities, the intern is responsible to discuss options with their Field Education Instructor.

Site Supervisor Qualifications:

- Five or more years of ministry supervision experience (exceptions must be approved by Field Education Instructor)
- One or more years in the current ministry position
- Formal theological training and/or equivalent ministry experience
- Not a current student of MTS
- Not a family member
- Available to serve as a Site Supervisor
- Available to commit to the Field Education Internship program

## APPLICATION PROCESS

---

After you have chosen a potential site and Site Supervisor, complete the *MTS Internship: Approval and Registration Form* and submit it to your assigned Field Education Instructor for approval. A student cannot enroll in an internship course online or directly through the Registrar's office. Registration is done only by the Field Education Instructor. The internship course will then appear in your list of current classes and the tuition will be added to your student account.

## ROLES OF INTERNSHIP PARTICIPANTS

---

### Cooperating Ministry or Organization

---

The specific responsibilities of the ministry/organization as viewed by MTS include the following:

- To recommend a Site Supervisor who meets the MTS standards and requirements.
- To ensure the intern is properly briefed regarding the organization's policies, philosophy, rules, dress code, ministry responsibilities and expectations.
- To ensure the intern is receiving the best possible ministry experience.
- To communicate with assigned Field Education Instructor when appropriate.

Intern Compensation:

MTS encourages, but does not require, paying a stipend to the intern for their time. The minimum number of hours required for the internship is 5-10 hours per week over a 16-week semester. However, the specific hours and schedule are negotiated by the Site Supervisor and the intern.

### Field Education Instructor

---

The Field Education Instructor, as an employee of MTS, assists the intern, the Site Supervisor and the cooperating ministry/organization in meeting the educational requirements for the student.

### Intern

---

The intern is expected to follow the guidelines presented below in order to receive credit for the internship. These guidelines give a clear description of the process of field education.

## Intern Expectations

- MTS holds their interns to a high standard of behavior during their time of service. It is essential that the intern keep all ministry engagements and time commitments. Planned absences must be approved by the Site Supervisor and the Field Education Instructor must be notified prior to the absence.
- One of the core elements of our internship program is the mentoring meeting between the Site Supervisor and the intern. This should be a weekly meeting, preferably at a consistent time. This should be a high priority for both the intern and the Site Supervisor.
- Each intern has agreed in signing the *Application and Approval Form* to abide by the rules and responsibilities of both the internship site ministry and Moody Bible Institute.
- Interns should dress for their work in a way that shows respect for the guidelines of the host ministry. Interns must adhere to MTS dress code unless stated otherwise by Site Supervisor (most importantly, attire should be neat, modest and professional).

## Site Supervisor

---

The chosen Site Supervisor will be made aware of our philosophy at MTS, the unique features of our Field Education program, and our commitment to the ministry of supervision.

The Site Supervisor plays a vital role in equipping students for ministry. As Paul was called to equip Timothy, so the Site Supervisor is called to equip the intern (2 Tim. 2:2). Site Supervisors, in partnership with MTS, are trustworthy models and trainers for students who are being formed for ministry.

The Site Supervisor must be approved by MTS before they can take on the internship. If the person the intern selects to be the Site Supervisor does not meet the qualifications, or seems like he/she cannot meet all the responsibilities, the intern is responsible to discuss options with their Field Education Instructor.

Responsibilities of the Site Supervisor:

- To acquaint the intern with the procedures, philosophy, routines, environment and personnel of the internship ministry/organization.
- To make clear to the ministry/organization the status of the intern as a professional co-worker. (This will help the intern establish delegated authority when the Site Supervisor provides the opportunity to participate in the ministry).
- To provide the intern with opportunities to work in various aspects of the ministry.
- To properly orient the intern and to review experiences with the intern.
- To observe the intern's strengths and weaknesses, and suggest corrective procedures.
- To arrange for the intern to assume full responsibility for the ministry toward the end of the experience.
- To commit to weekly meetings with the intern (a minimum of one hour/week). This time should involve assessing the intern's progress and learning objectives, planning for future opportunities in which the intern can be involved, and praying for the intern and the internship.
- To assess the intern by submitting a thoughtful and constructive final assessment.
- Pray for the intern.
- Ask questions that will enable the intern to self-reflect deeply and honestly.
- Maintain the instructor role as a facilitator rather than a problem solver.

- Demonstrate honesty and authenticity about one's own faith journey and ministry.

Giving Feedback to the Intern:

A large aspect is maximizing the benefit of feedback for the intern's ministry formation. Feedback should be characterized by the following:

- Evaluations are to be descriptive rather than judgmental or condemning.
- Specific rather than general.
- Directed toward behaviors that the intern can change.
- Timely—the more immediate the feedback, the more useful for the intern.
- Checked for clarity and accuracy.

MTS expects the Site Supervisor to invite the intern into self-reflection about the internship to promote self-understanding and awareness in ministry; this should be done in conjunction with ministry skill development.

## MENTORING RESPONSIBILITIES

---

### Mentoring Aspects

---

The foundation of effective field education is the supervisory relationship. One of the distinguishing factors between a good and a poor site is the frequency, quality, and intensity of supervision provided. Good supervision can rescue even a poor internship experience and a good site can be spoiled by a supervisor who cannot follow through on the promised time and attention for the intern.

Kenneth Pohly is the director of the Center for Supervisory Studies at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. In his work *Transforming the Rough Places: The Ministry of Supervision*, he describes supervision in this way:

(It is) a method of doing and reflecting on ministry in which a supervisor (teacher) and one or more supervisees (learners) covenant together to reflect critically on their ministry as a way of growing in self-awareness, ministering competence, theological understanding, and Christian commitment (p. 75).<sup>1</sup>

Supervision should focus on accountability and mutual trust; it begins as a required effort in which both parties realize that proper supervision does not happen on its own—supervision is work. Although every intern/supervisor relationship is unique, the role and responsibility of the intern and supervisor must be well defined if the mentoring meeting is to be an intentional time of growth and theological reflection.

This is an academic internship and the prime objective is intern growth and learning. The intern's responsibility must be centered on being receptive to the instruction of the supervision and eager

---

<sup>1</sup> Pohly, Kenneth H. *Transforming the Rough Places: The ministry of supervision*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Franklin, TN: Providence House, 2001.

participation in the work of the internship. Their responsibility must be to fill their role as an adult learner under the supervision of another mentoring adult.

## Theological Reflection

---

The Site Supervisor is delegated the authority of an instructor and a facilitator by MTS and the church or agency. He or she needs to model professional behavior, facilitate ministry experience and mentor the intern. However, there needs to be affirmation and mutual respect. The Theological Reflection process provides a prime opportunity to bring all these elements of mentorship together.

Feedback and constructive criticism should be neutral, objective, descriptive, subject to dialogue, and directed at behavior, not personality. The mentoring meeting is not a time for personal counseling. It is not appropriate for the Site Supervisor to engage in the counseling of a student who is under his/her supervision.

If the Site Supervisor believes that counseling is necessary, he or she should contact the Field Education Instructor early. Students need structure, especially in the initial stage of a placement, when performance anxiety is high. A Site Supervisor who is spontaneous, informal supervisory meetings, especially in regard to theological reflection, is doing the student a disfavor.

Theological Reflection is a time to identify and process growth areas for the intern in conjunction with what he or she is learning and experiencing in the internship. For any clarification on the theological reflection process, please contact your Field Education Instructor.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

---

### Requirements

---

The intern and the Site Supervisor must adhere to the standards of conduct as outlined in the MTS Field Education Handbook, the MTS standards in the Catalogue, and the MBI regulations in the Graduate Student Handbook. All interactions and behaviors must be above reproach and in line with a biblical lifestyle. Any deviation from these standards will result appropriate action by the Field Education Instructor and may result premature ending and failing of the internship. Character development is an essential element in the internship process and both the intern and the Site Supervisor must be held to a high moral, professional and relational standard to preserve the integrity of MTS and the body of Christ. Please refer to the Grad Student handbook and the MTS catalogue for disciplinary procedures and standards.

### MTS Student Life

---

The MTS Catalogue states:

In a changing world, the Christian has an unchanging standard, God's Word. Moody Bible Institute's standards of conduct are based on the teaching and principles of Scripture, seeking to develop personal holiness and discipline exemplified in a lifestyle glorifying to God. For these

reasons, students enrolled at the Institute are required to refrain from the following activities: use of any tobacco products, consumption of alcoholic beverages and non-medicinal narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs, gambling, and the reading of obscene or pornographic literature. Members of the MBI community are expected to use discernment in making choices concerning music, drama, dance, comedy, literature, television, and movies.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner keeping with a good Christian testimony, including modesty in dress and appearance.

The Institute reserves the right to require the withdrawal of students whose behavior is in conflict with these standards. Individuals who do not fit in with the objectives and ideals of the Institute may be asked to withdraw whenever the general welfare demands it, even though there may be no specific breach of contract. More detailed explanations are provided in a handbook distributed to all semester students upon enrollment at MTS.

## LEGAL AND GRIEVANCE ISSUES

---

### Legal Issues

---

The Intern, Site Supervisor and Internship site/organization take on full legal responsibility for any issues and conflicts that could arise in connection with the internship.

Moody Bible Institute views any form of sexual harassment, verbal or physical, express or implied, direct or indirect, quid pro quo or through a hostile work environment, as inconsistent with biblical teachings, Institute standards, and applicable laws. MBI will address any such complaint swiftly and appropriately in accordance with Moody Bible Institute's Sexual Harassment Policy. No forms of sexual harassment will be tolerated. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, any repeated or undesired verbal or sexual advances, sexually explicit derogatory remarks, or offensive statements made by someone in the workplace.

In a ministry connected with children or youth, the Internship organization is responsible for all details and expenses pertaining to background checks. Child abuse allegations are criminal in nature and will be dealt with in accordance with the laws of the state or country in which the internship takes place. The Intern and the Site Supervisor must agree to these terms.

Reports of harassment complaints or violations of the law should be submitted to the Dean of Students and the MTS Field Education Instructor in a timely and appropriate manner.

### Grievance Procedure

---

As a Christian academic community committed to equipping believers for effective ministry, we recognize the importance of maintaining clear lines of communication between the Site Supervisor and the Intern, to reduce anything that would destroy the unity of the Spirit and be injurious to being a testimony for Christ. In the event of a serious complaint, criticism, or disagreement between these two persons, it is vital to follow the instructions given by the Lord in Matthew 18:15-17. The aggrieved person, whether Site Supervisor or Intern, should go directly and privately in person to the individual involved. However, if the



scriptural guidelines do not resolve differences on a personal level, the aggrieved person may invoke the following grievance procedure.

The aggrieved individual has a right of representation and may present a brief written statement of appeal to the Director of Field Education. The Director of Field Education will call a preliminary meeting between the Site Supervisor and the Intern one week after receiving the written statement of appeal. Once the grievance procedure has been invoked, there will be no termination of internship until all provisions of the procedure have been exhausted. The grievance committee will make the appropriate determination to resolve the conflict.

## Internship Changes

---

MTS strongly discourages termination of any internship after the signing of the *Application and Approval Form*, but also recognizes that extreme issues can arise. If an extreme issue arises, it is the responsibility of the offended parties to contact the Field Education Instructor to begin a mediation process. Mediation should take place at the first sign of concern.

If the mediating efforts of the Field Education Instructor do not bring about the desired results, MTS will help to facilitate the termination of the placement. The following procedure must be followed to properly terminate a placement, regardless of which party is making the request. If the procedure is not followed, a site cannot continue in the program, and the student may receive a failing grade (NP).

Internship termination must be preceded by a formal meeting to include the intern, the Site Supervisor, and the Field Education Instructor. During this meeting, the participants must seek to bring closure to the internship and must refrain from assigning blame for the reasons of termination. A proposed process of reconciliation will be given for the benefit of both the site/Site Supervisor and the intern to seek to continue the program if at all possible. If not, there must be arrangements for severance pay or other financial obligations. The Field Education Instructor will also seek to ensure that all relationships with the site remain as positive as possible.

Upon conclusion of this meeting, the involved parties will attempt to reach a mutual decision regarding the terms of the termination. If a solution is not agreeable to all participating parties, the terms and conditions of termination shall be decided by the Field Education Instructor. The intern and site/Site Supervisor must agree to comply with this final decision and work to bring closure to the situation as quickly as possible.

It is important to realize that a terminated internship will result in zero credit for the intern and will require that the intern wait for the next semester before enrolling in a new internship. Under no circumstances will partial credit be given for a terminated internship.

If the internship is terminated due to a leave of absence or for any other reasons, the student should still plan to have a Ministry Completion Meeting with the Field Education Instructor. The intern and Field Education Instructor will discuss a procedure for resuming the internship.

## INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS

---

**International students must comply with regulations governing ministry internships. The student is required to contact the International Students Office as well as the Field Education Office in order to comply with the rules and forms required of all international students seeking to do an internship.**

## Purpose

---

One of the main goals of Moody Bible Institute since its conception has been to prepare Christian leaders for full-time ministry positions in overseas settings. That is still a primary part of MBI's mission today and it is encouraged by the Field Education Department. Internship opportunities in cross-cultural settings can enrich the ministry mindset of an intern, provide new understanding of people and culture, expand ideas of ministry techniques, integrate academic knowledge with practical applications, and build a healthy appreciation for differences in language, lifestyle, religion and appearance in people both within and outside the ministry setting. Our goal is to provide a program by which interns could experience these differences over a summer semester to enrich their global perspective on ministry and relational interactions and to give them the opportunity to connect with possible ministry partners for the future.

## Application Process

---

Applying for an international internship must be done in conjunction with and approval from the Field Education Instructor. Mission trip internships will only be approved during the summer semester unless permission is given directly from the Field Education Instructor. Do not make preparations to go on a mission trip to fulfill the requirements for an internship without first discussing the details with the Field Education Instructor.

International internship placements will still follow all the procedures of a general internship, including site research and Site Supervisor approval. The MTS website contains a special Internship Approval Form for mission trip applicants. This form must be downloaded and completed after the intern has been given the approval of the Field Education Instructor for the specified site, duration, and ministry.

In addition to the MTS application documents, the intern must give proof that they have contacted the potential host or coordinating organization for the trip. Before the internship is fully approved, the intern must provide documentation to MTS that the organization has accepted the intern and all the stipulations outlined by the MTS Field Education Site Requirements in this Manual have been accepted by the organizers and the Site Supervisor. Any alterations in this process must be addressed by the Field Education Instructor.

After the *MTS Internship Approval and Registration Form* have been approved, the intern may complete the remaining application documents and continue making preparations for going on the trip.

Students classified with an intercultural emphasis are encouraged to do internship programs in an international setting, especially if their desire is to minister in a foreign country in the future. However, this opportunity is open to all MTS students who desire to engage ministry in a cross-cultural setting. Each student must be able to demonstrate to the Field Education Instructor why this internship will benefit them and how they plan to use this experience to prepare for future ministry.

Because any international travel can easily result in complications, it is strongly suggested that interns interested in doing an international internship begin the application process a minimum of six months in

advance of the beginning of the internship. Please contact the Field Education Department for further guidance on this process.

## Requirements and Information

---

### General Requirements:

Register for FE 6670 or FE 7770 through the Field Education Department. This course must follow the requirements set forth for all internships in the other sections of this manual. International interns are not exempt from any requirements unless specified by the Director of Field Education in writing.

### Intern Requirements:

- **Passport:** The intern is responsible for making sure their passport is current; if renewal is needed, all arrangements and costs associated with this process will be covered by the student and not by MTS.
- **Visa:** The coordinating organization should assist with the arrangements for applying for and securing the proper visa documentation. MTS will not participate in any of these arrangements nor will they compensate for any costs.
- **Insurance:** Moody students are responsible for providing their own domestic insurance, and it is the responsibility of the intern to confirm that their insurance is valid for international travel. The coordinating organization may be of assistance in determining where to get additional insurance, but MTS will not participate in these arrangements.
- **Evacuation Costs:** These arrangements must also be made through the coordinating organization, since standards vary based on destinations. All arrangements and costs must be covered by the intern. MTS cannot be held responsible for any part of this procedure.

### Site Selection Process:

The site selection process is listed in this Manual (in the sections Before You Apply for an Internship, and Roles of Internship Participants) and applies to all international internships.

While MTS strives to accommodate interns desiring to serve overseas, each application will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The Field Education Instructor reserves the right to reject a potential site or suggest the benefit of another site. This requires that the intern know the background, present ministry and positive aspects of the proposed site. It is always important to begin the process of screening potential sites with ample time for the Field Education Instructor to give approval.

## Release of Liability

---

### REQUIRED for all international internships

I \_\_\_\_\_ (*full name*) assume any and all responsibility for risk and liability during the international trip to \_\_\_\_\_ (*international location*) for the purpose of fulfilling my Moody Theological Seminary ("MTS") Field Education requirements. I release Moody Bible Institute and all departments of the institution from any responsibility connected with incidents that might occur during the internship placement (including but not limited to mugging, property vandalism, hostage situations/ abductions, physical assaults, coup attempts, and situations of political unrest).

I knowingly take on the costs and responsibility for all insurance matters that apply to international travelers and will not hold Moody Bible Institute responsible for any of these arrangements or financial obligations.

In giving approval to the internship site, MTS makes no representations or warranties, with the sole exception of the existence of the internship as a valid legal entity. It is the sole responsibility of the intern to confirm that the internship site is safe and spiritually valuable place to work.

I acknowledge that I have read the recommendations for international travel outlined by the Field Education Handbook. I choose to take this international placement because I believe the experience will be educationally beneficial and will assist me in future ministry opportunities. I will take on all other obligations, fees, and research necessary to working outside the United States of America in a way that demonstrates integrity and responsibility.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CONTACT INFORMATION

---

Prof. Daniel Thorpe for Michigan Campus  
Adjunct Professor  
Field Education Instructor  
[daniel.thorpe@moody.edu](mailto:daniel.thorpe@moody.edu)