

**INTERNSHIP EVALUATION OF THAI STUDENTS MAJORING IN
JAPANESE FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION
BY JAPANESE COMPANIES:
A CASE STUDY OF INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN JAPAN
BY SRIPATUM UNIVERSITY**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper was to obtain evaluation of internship students by Japanese companies, to qualitatively review the preparatory education for internship program, and to promote industry-academia partnership as a case study of an internship program in Japan by Department of Japanese for Business Communication, Sripatum University in Thailand. As an evaluation method, a questionnaire survey with eight questions was adopted, consisting of closed-ended questions with single answer (Questions No. 1 to 6) and with multiple answers (Question No.7); and with free answer (Question No. 8). Questions No. 1 to 6 asked satisfaction level of student's attitude, skills, professional or general knowledge, etc. by four rating scales. There were answers from four companies (valid response rate: 66.67%), and a reliability coefficient was 0.75 (Cronbach's alpha) in Questions No. 1 to 6. Overall, the survey results showed a considerably high degree of satisfaction (83.34%). However, when viewed on an average-value, there were some high-low differences of satisfaction in each answer. In line with the answer results, further improvements in preparatory education before internship are required to make the internship worthy of evaluation or fruitful.

Keywords: Internship in Japan, Cooperative Education, Industry-academia partnership, Japanese company, Sripatum University

1. Introduction

Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act of the Ministry of Justice stipulates detailed rules regarding the status of residence of foreigners associated with their employment activities in Japan (Immigration Services Agency of Japan). At the same time, public notifications (one of the laws and regulations) regarding the employment of foreigners are also issued continuously. According to the public notification (Ministry of Justice), 46 types of activities (as of September 2020) have been designated as specific activities (Sekine, 2020). This specific activity called *designated activities* included *internship with reward* (No. 9). The following is the summary of the outline of the internship in the notification No. 9: 1) a system that a student can work in a company in order to gain