Personal Research Projects (MBAN Internship)

What is a Personal Research Project?

The personal research project is an independent analytics project created and proposed by a student to fulfill the requirements of the MBAN internship for graduation. The project scope must be aligned with the content taught in the MBAN program and must be approved by our faculty committee.

Are personal research projects paid?

Although personal research projects are unpaid, they can be a learning opportunity for you to apply your analytical skills and knowledge to a real-world problem that is of particular interest to you while leveraging support form faculty in your doing so. The goal of a personal research project is to allow you to explore an interest and showcase your business analytics skills.

What is the minimum time requirement?

Personal research projects must take a minimum of **280 hours** (8 weeks, 35 hours/week or part-time over longer period of time). Students must track their own hours. The 280 hours must be completed by **October 15th**.

What are some example topics?

A personal research project can be focused on an analytical challenge or research question that you might be curious about and want to explore further. As such, personal research projects can be diverse.

Some examples include:

- Collect publicly available data and build a dashboard to track the progress of COVID vaccinations by region or predict new infection rates and assess 'opening plans';
- Evaluate the impact of public health measures on disease transmission or the economy in different countries or regions;
- Develop quantitative algorithms for trading and assess them against actual performance,
- Use publicly available data from social media platforms to quantify the impact of news articles on public perception towards social issues or the launch of a new product;
- Quantify the impact of different lock-down strategies on air pollution or on crime rates for specific types of crimes;
- Identify common skills, qualifications and traits of people in key roles of a top-performing company;
- Forecast the demand for tourist services in Vancouver as per the proposed 'opening plans'

Where can I access data to use for my project?

You could access data from open sources such as:
- Kaggle
- Google Public Data Explorer
- The Analytics@Sauder repository has started maintaining a list of publicly available data sources and will be adding more here:
  https://analytics-at-sauder.github.io/resources.html#Data_Sources

How do I get my project approved?

If you are interested in this option, you will have to propose a project and have it reviewed. For that, you must complete and submit the [MBAN Internship proposal webform](). Our faculty committee will review your submission and let you know if it is approved.

Please note that not all the questions on the webform will fit perfectly. What is important is to include information on what you hope to achieve for the project and outline a plan to get there (include the type of data you will use and its availability)

What is the deadline?

All personal research projects must be submitted for approval by **July 19th**. The minimum hours must be completed by **October 15th**.

Will I receive support for my personal research project?

You will be matched with a faculty supervisor with whom you can ask questions and share challenges you may be experiencing with your project. You are expected to have **2 touchpoints** with your faculty supervisor: end of July (initial meeting) and end of August/early September (mid-point) to update your supervisor on the progress of your project and ask for any guidance. **It is expected that you will reach out to your assigned faculty member to arrange these meeting times.**

What is the final deliverable?

You will be required to submit a 5-8 page report on their internship or personal research project to their faculty supervisor by **October 15, 2021**.

The report will need to include:
- Summary of project outcomes
- Tools/skills used
- Example of 1 challenge that you overcame
- Personal reflection of learnings from the project
- Note: Your faculty supervisor may have additional requirements depending on the type of internship opportunity.

What if I have questions?

We will be holding a **drop-in session** for students to bring their project ideas and get feedback or ask questions.

- **Date**: Tues, June 8th from 12-1pm PDT
- **Link:** https://ubc.zoom.us/j/63670226613?pwd=UmlQV3BPd3kxci9rWFpxMWQ1VS9yUT09

You can also contact Whitney (whitney.friesen@sauder.ubc.ca) with questions.