Dual Study Program at AHU

Frequently asked questions and general remarks

Q. What is the Dual Study (DS) program?

A. It is an educational concept which integrate the educational knowledge with the practical implementation by building a solid cooperation between the universities and industrial partners.

Q. What are the benefits of the DS for students, companies, and the universities?

A. The DS provides students with a practical experience which they will gain through the extended practical phases at the company. In addition, students will acquire communication, interpersonal, and social skills. On the other hand, the companies will have well-qualified graduates who are already familiar with the company's business due to the extended practical phases they spent in the company. Finally, the university will have a high percentage of employed graduates which will increase its rank among other universities.

Q. When DS starts at AHU?

A. DS starts at AHU in summer 2019 as a pilot program with two students from CS department, then an official version has been lunched in summer 2020 for the whole IT departments (i.e. CS, CIS, and SWE)

Q. Who is eligible to apply in DS at AHU?

A. All fresh students who are registered in the regular program in any of IT departments are eligible to apply for DS; however, some prerequisites must be fulfilled to be able to participate in the program.

Q. What are the prerequisites that the student must fulfill to be able to participate in the program?

A. The student should have the willing to participate in the program for at least three semesters during his/her study. Then, he/she must pass two programming courses at his/her first year of study (programming language 1 & 2).

Q. What is the procedure to select the students to participate in the DS at AHU?

A. The students go through some filtration to determine if he/she has fulfilled the prerequisite and if he/she has the willing to participate in the program. The available positions are then distributed on the selected students according to their GPAs and to their lecturer's evaluation.

Q. How the selected students are distributed on the partner companies?

A. The program committee at AH starts the process by guiding the students to build their CVs and we distribute the CVs on the partner companies. Some companies do interviews, some review the CVs and some of them ask us to choose the students. Then the committee do the final match between the students and the companies.

Q. Do the companies or AHU pay for the students during their practical sessions?

A. Due to COVID-19 crises, most of the partner companies could not offer to pay for the students during the practical session. However, GIZ offered some grant to cover the students' local travel cost with amount of 200 Euros and this grant is valid during this summer 2019/2020.

Q. When the DS program starts?

A. The program starts for each group of the selected students at the first summer semester (usually at the end of June) for three months of training. Then it is repeated each summer semester until the student is graduated (normally, three summers).

Q. Can the student register in regular courses during the training period?

A. AHU guarantees to offer one 3-credit online course each summer for the DS students. If the student likes to register for additional courses, he/she must get approval from the DS committee.

Q. Are there any contracts that must be signed by the students, AHU, or the partner companies?

A. Yes, there are AHU-Company and Student-Company contracts that must be signed by corresponding parties before starting the program.

Q. What will happen to the student if he/she decide to quit from the DS program?

A. If the student decides not to proceed with the program for any reason, then he/she will return to the regular program at AHU. However, AHU, GIZ or companies may ask the student to payback all the money he/she was granted during the program. Also, the student in this case will not be able return to the program or any such programs during his study.

Q. What requirements does a company have to fulfill to participate in a Dual Study program?

A. The companies should be willing to provide well-guided training to the students. This should be accomplished by cooperating with AHU to harmonize the vocational and the academic parts of the program for the highest possible degree of employability of the student. To do so, the company must have a clear training plan which can be developed with support by AHU. In addition, the company must provide a qualified mentor for accepted students and should provide a liaison officer to maintain continuous contact with a respective counterpart at AHU. Moreover, the company needs to sign a company-university contract to officially engage the DS program. This contract contains all rights, duties, and timelines for all parties. It also guarantees that the student may complete their studies even if unexpected changes in the cooperation between the university and the company arise.

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