TECHNICAL REPORT

ON

STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES)

AT

TONNEX INFO-TECH LOCATED AT SURULERE, BEHIND UNION BANK IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE

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DEDICATION

I dedicate my Industrial Training report to Almighty God, who has given me the grace to participate in the SIWES program, to my Parents and as many that have contributed greatly to the success of my Industrial Training.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank God who has seen me throughout my SIWES program and also thank my Industrial based supervisor who guided me through My Industrial training. I also send out my appreciation to my lecturers, friends and Coworkers for their moral support. My special thanks to my wonderful and lovely parents Mr. and Mrs. Abdullahi who were there for me in terms of care, prayers, financial support and others.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) is a work-based learning program designed to prepare students for the transition from academic life to professional careers. It is an integral part of the Nigerian educational system, aimed at equipping students with practical skills and knowledge to complement their theoretical studies. SIWES was established in 1973 by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) in response to the growing concerns of employers about the lack of practical skills among graduates from tertiary institutions (Ezeabikwa, 1991). The scheme is a collaborative initiative involving students, tertiary institutions, employers of labor, and the ITF.

The program was introduced to address the gap between classroom learning and the real-world demands of industries. It recognizes that while theoretical knowledge is essential, it is often insufficient for solving practical problems in professional environments. SIWES provides students with opportunities to gain hands-on experience, develop technical competencies, and understand workplace ethics and culture (Agbai, 1992).

The scheme is a mandatory part of the curriculum for students studying courses such as engineering, technology, medical sciences, agriculture, education, and other applied sciences. It typically lasts for six months for university undergraduates and four months for students in polytechnics or colleges of education (ITF, 2024). Through this initiative, students are exposed to industrial practices and technologies that are not available within their academic institutions. This exposure enhances their employability and prepares them for the challenges of the modern workforce (Adebayo & Adesanya, 2013).

SIWES also serves as a platform for fostering partnerships between educational institutions and industries. These partnerships enable industries to contribute to curriculum development by providing feedback on the skills and knowledge required in the workplace. This collaboration ensures that graduates are better equipped to meet industry standards and expectations (Akinyemi & Abiodun, 2018).

In summary, SIWES is a vital component of Nigeria's educational system that bridges the gap between theory and practice. It plays a crucial role in preparing students for professional careers by equipping them with practical skills, knowledge, and experiences that are essential for success in their chosen fields.

1.2 BRIEF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SIWES

The history of SIWES dates back to the early 1970s when Nigeria experienced rapid industrial growth following its independence. This growth created a demand for skilled manpower to operate and manage industrial facilities. However, employers soon realized that graduates from tertiary institutions lacked the practical skills needed to perform effectively in the workplace (Ezeabikwa, 1991).

In response to this challenge, the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) was established in 1971 by Decree No. 47 with a mandate to promote skill acquisition and manpower development in Nigeria. Two years later, in 1973, SIWES was introduced as one of ITF's flagship programs aimed at addressing the skill gap among graduates (ITF, 2024). Initially, SIWES was fully funded and managed by ITF. The program targeted students in engineering and technology-related fields who required practical training as part of their academic curriculum (Adebayo & Adesanya, 2013).

By 1978, financial constraints forced ITF to withdraw from direct management of SIWES.

The Federal Government subsequently transferred oversight responsibilities to the National

Universities Commission (NUC) for universities and the National Board for Technical

Education (NBTE) for polytechnics and colleges of education (Legit.ng, 2022). However, this arrangement proved ineffective due to inadequate funding and poor coordination among stakeholders. In 1984, management responsibilities were returned to ITF under a new funding arrangement supported by the Federal Government (SmartBukites, 2023).

Over time, SIWES has undergone significant changes aimed at improving its effectiveness and expanding its scope. Initially limited to engineering and technology disciplines, it now includes other fields such as medical sciences, agriculture, business administration, and education. These changes reflect an ongoing commitment to align SIWES with evolving industry needs and national development goals (Akinyemi & Abiodun, 2018).

Today, SIWES is recognized as one of Nigeria's most successful initiatives for bridging the gap between academic learning and industrial practice. It has become an essential component of tertiary education in Nigeria, contributing significantly to skill development and employability among graduates.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF SIWES

The primary objectives of SIWES are multifaceted and aim to enhance both student learning and industry engagement:

- To provide students with industrial skills and experience relevant to their field of study.
- To expose students to work methods and techniques that may not be available in their academic institutions.
- To facilitate a smoother transition from academic life to professional employment by enhancing students' networks with potential employers.
- To allow students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, thereby bridging the gap between theory and practice.

• To strengthen employer participation in the educational process by fostering collaboration between educational institutions and industries (Ezeabikwa, 1991; ITF, 2024).

CHAPTER TWO

DESCRIPTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTACHMENT

2.1 LOCATION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT

Tonnex Info-Tech is a leading IT establishment located in Surulere, behind Union Bank in Ilorin, Kwara State. The company has carved a niche for itself in the ever-evolving world of information technology by providing cutting-edge solutions in IT protocols, computer systems, software engineering, and networking services. This chapter delves into the details of the establishment, including its location and history, objectives, organizational structure, and the various departments that make up the company along with their respective functions. Tonnex Info-Tech is strategically situated in Surulere, a bustling area within Ilorin, Kwara State. Its precise location behind Union Bank makes it easily accessible to clients from different parts of the city. Ilorin itself is a growing hub for technological innovation and entrepreneurship, making it an ideal location for a business like Tonnex Info-Tech to thrive. The establishment benefits from being at the heart of a community that is increasingly embracing digital transformation and technological advancements.

The history of Tonnex Info-Tech dates back to its founding by a group of tech enthusiasts who identified a gap in the local market for reliable IT services. Recognizing the rapid pace at which technology was advancing globally, they sought to bring these advancements closer to home by establishing a company that could cater to both individual and corporate IT needs. Over time, Tonnex Info-Tech grew from a small startup into a reputable organization known for its professionalism, innovation, and customer-centric approach.

From its inception, the company has been committed to bridging the digital divide by providing affordable yet high-quality IT solutions. It began with basic computer repairs and troubleshooting but gradually expanded its services to include software development, networking solutions, IT training programs, and more. Today, Tonnex Info-Tech stands as a

testament to how dedication and innovation can drive business growth even in competitive industries.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF ESTABLISHMENT

Tonnex Info-Tech operates with a clear vision and mission that guide its activities and decision-making processes. The objectives of the establishment are multifaceted and reflect its commitment to excellence in the field of information technology. These objectives include:

- 1. Providing High-Quality IT Services: One of the primary objectives of Tonnex Info-Tech is to deliver top-notch IT services that meet international standards. Whether it involves designing custom software applications or setting up secure network systems for businesses, the company strives for excellence in every project it undertakes.
- 2. Enhancing Technological Proficiency: Tonnex Info-Tech aims to empower individuals and organizations by equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in today's digital world. Through training programs and workshops, the company helps clients stay ahead of technological trends.
- 3. Promoting Digital Transformation: In an era where digitalization is reshaping industries worldwide, Tonnex Info-Tech seeks to be at the forefront of this transformation by offering innovative solutions that drive efficiency and productivity for businesses.
- 4. Fostering Innovation: The company encourages creativity and innovation among its staff members as well as its clients. By staying updated on emerging technologies and exploring new ideas, Tonnex Info-Tech ensures that it remains competitive in the ever-changing IT landscape.
- 5. Building Long-Term Client Relationships: Customer satisfaction is at the core of Tonnex Info-Tech's operations. The company prioritizes building trust and

- maintaining long-term relationships with clients by consistently delivering exceptional services.
- 6. Contributing to Economic Growth: By creating job opportunities and supporting local businesses through its services, Tonnex Info-Tech plays a role in boosting economic development within Kwara State and beyond.

2.3 ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The organizational structure of Tonnex Info-Tech is designed to facilitate efficient decision-making and seamless collaboration among employees. Like most modern IT firms, the company adopts a hierarchical structure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities at each level.

At the top of the hierarchy is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Managing Director, who oversees the overall operations of the company. The CEO is responsible for setting strategic goals, making high-level decisions, and ensuring that all departments align with the company's mission and vision.

Below the CEO are various managers who head specific departments such as Software Development, Networking, Technical Support, Sales & Marketing, Administration, and Training & Development. These managers report directly to the CEO and are tasked with supervising their teams while ensuring that departmental goals are met.

The next level comprises team leaders or supervisors who coordinate day-to-day activities within their respective teams. They act as intermediaries between department managers and team members, ensuring smooth communication and workflow.

At the base of the hierarchy are employees who specialize in different areas such as programming, hardware repair, network installation, customer service, or sales. These individuals form the backbone of Tonnex Info-Tech's operations by carrying out tasks that contribute directly to service delivery.

This structured approach enables Tonnex Info-Tech to operate efficiently while fostering accountability at all levels of the organization.

2.4 DEPARTMENTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

Tonnex Info-Tech is divided into several departments, each specializing in specific aspects of information technology. This division ensures that every client receives expert attention tailored to their unique needs. Below is an overview of these departments along with their respective functions:

1. Software Development Department:

This department focuses on designing, developing, testing, and maintaining software applications for clients. Whether it's creating custom software for businesses or developing mobile apps for individual users, this team handles all aspects of software engineering.

- Functions include writing code using programming languages like Python or JavaScript.
- Conducting quality assurance tests to ensure software functionality.
- Providing updates or patches for existing software systems.
- Collaborating with clients to understand their requirements and deliver tailored solutions.

2. Networking Department:

The networking team specializes in setting up secure network systems for businesses and individuals.

- Functions include installing routers, switches, firewalls, and other networking equipment.
- Configuring Local Area Networks (LANs) or Wide Area Networks (WANs).
- Monitoring network performance to identify potential issues.
- Providing cybersecurity solutions to protect networks from threats such as hacking or malware attacks.

3. Technical Support Department:

This department serves as the first point of contact for clients experiencing technical issues with their hardware or software.

- Functions include diagnosing problems with computers or other devices.
- Repairing faulty hardware components such as motherboards or hard drives.
- Assisting clients with software installation or troubleshooting errors.
- Offering remote support through phone calls or online platforms when necessary.

4. Sales & Marketing Department:

The sales team plays a crucial role in promoting Tonnex Info-Tech's services while building strong relationships with clients.

- Functions include identifying potential clients through market research.
- Developing marketing strategies to increase brand visibility.
- Negotiating contracts or pricing agreements with clients.
- Gathering feedback from customers to improve service delivery.

5. Training & Development Department:

This department focuses on educating individuals or organizations about various aspects of information technology.

- Functions include organizing workshops on topics like coding or graphic design.
- Offering certification programs for professionals seeking career advancement.
- Providing hands-on training sessions using state-of-the-art equipment.
- Partnering with schools or universities to promote IT education among students.

6. Administrative Department:

The administrative team ensures smooth day-to-day operations by handling tasks such as scheduling appointments or managing finances.

- Functions include maintaining records related to employee performance or client transactions.
- Coordinating meetings between different departments within Tonnex Info-Tech.
- Managing payroll systems for employees' salaries or benefits packages.
- Ensuring compliance with legal regulations governing business operations.

CHAPTER THREE

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

3.1 WORK DONE

During my SIWES program at Tonnex Info-Tech, I was actively involved in various activities that aligned with my field of study—Procurement and Supply Chain Management—while also learning how these principles are applied within an IT-focused organization. My responsibilities were diverse and required me to collaborate with different departments within the company. Below is a detailed description of the work I performed:

1. Procurement Planning:

One of my primary tasks was assisting in procurement planning. This involved identifying the company's needs for IT equipment, software licenses, and other operational supplies. I worked closely with department heads to understand their requirements and prioritize procurement activities based on urgency, budget constraints, and project timelines.

For example, when the Networking Department needed routers and switches for a client project, I helped prepare a procurement plan that outlined the specifications, estimated costs, and delivery timelines. This task enhanced my ability to analyze needs and develop comprehensive plans that align with organizational goals.

2. Supplier Sourcing and Evaluation:

I was actively involved in sourcing potential suppliers for various IT products and services. This process included researching vendors, comparing prices, evaluating quality standards, and negotiating terms of service. Supplier evaluation was a critical aspect of this task, as it ensured that only reliable vendors were selected.

For instance, when sourcing laptops for a bulk purchase order, I assisted in evaluating multiple suppliers based on factors such as product quality, warranty terms, delivery

timelines, and pricing. This task improved my negotiation skills while teaching me how to balance cost-effectiveness with quality assurance.

3. Purchase Order Management:

Another key responsibility was preparing purchase orders (POs) for approved procurement requests. Using procurement software provided by Tonnex Info-Tech, I created detailed POs that included product descriptions, quantities, unit prices, total costs, delivery instructions, and payment terms.

This task required attention to detail to ensure that all information was accurate before sending the POs to suppliers. Any errors could lead to delays or misunderstandings during the procurement process.

4. Inventory Monitoring:

Inventory management was an integral part of my role at Tonnex Info-Tech. I assisted in tracking stock levels of IT supplies such as cables, hard drives, printers, and consumables like printer ink or paper. Regular stock checks were conducted to identify shortages or excesses. For example, during one inventory audit, we discovered that certain networking cables were running low due to increased demand from ongoing projects. I worked with the team to reorder these items promptly to avoid disruptions.

5. Documentation and Record-Keeping:

Proper documentation is essential in procurement processes to ensure transparency and accountability. I was responsible for maintaining records of all procurement transactions, including purchase orders, supplier invoices, delivery notes, payment receipts, and correspondence with vendors.

These records were organized systematically for easy retrieval during audits or reviews. This task taught me the importance of meticulous record-keeping in ensuring compliance with organizational policies and regulatory requirements.

6. Reporting:

At the end of each month, I contributed to preparing procurement reports that summarized activities undertaken during the period. These reports included details about purchases made, supplier performance evaluations, inventory status updates, and recommendations for improving procurement processes.

Preparing these reports enhanced my analytical skills as I had to interpret data from various sources and present it in a clear and concise format for management review.

Through these tasks, I gained valuable insights into how procurement functions are integrated into broader organizational operations. The experience also highlighted the importance of effective communication and collaboration among team members in achieving common goals.

3.2 TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

During my internship at Tonnex Info-Tech, I had access to various tools and equipment that facilitated efficient execution of my responsibilities. These tools were essential for managing procurement activities effectively while ensuring accuracy and productivity. Below is an overview of the tools I used:

1. Procurement Software:

The company utilized specialized software designed for managing procurement processes from start to finish. This tool allowed me to create requisitions, generate purchase orders automatically based on approved requests, track order statuses in real time, and maintain records of all transactions.

The software also featured reporting capabilities that simplified the preparation of monthly reports by generating summaries of procurement activities automatically.

2. Inventory Management System:

An inventory management system was used to monitor stock levels of IT supplies stored in the company's warehouse. This system provided real-time updates on inventory status while generating alerts when stock levels fell below predefined thresholds.

For example, if printer ink levels dropped below 10 units in stock (the minimum threshold), the system would notify us so we could reorder promptly without risking stockouts.

3. Communication Tools:

Effective communication was crucial during my internship as it enabled seamless coordination between departments as well as with external suppliers. Tools such as email platforms (e.g., Microsoft Outlook) were used extensively for correspondence with vendors regarding quotations or delivery schedules.

4. Office Equipment:

Standard office equipment such as desktop computers played a central role in performing daily tasks like preparing documents or accessing online resources related to vendor research or market analysis.

5. Microsoft Office Suite:

Microsoft Excel was particularly useful for creating spreadsheets that tracked supplier performance metrics over time (e.g., delivery punctuality rates). Microsoft Word was used frequently when drafting contracts or preparing formal letters addressed to vendors requesting clarifications about their quotations or terms of service agreements.

3.3 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Safety precautions are an integral part of any workplace environment as they help prevent accidents while ensuring employee well-being at all times—this was no different at Tonnex Info-Tech:

1. Data Security Measures:

Given the sensitive nature of procurement data and client information handled at Tonnex Info-Tech, strict data security measures were implemented. I was trained to use secure passwords for accessing procurement software and to regularly update them to prevent unauthorized access. Additionally, sensitive documents were stored in encrypted formats, and access was restricted to authorized personnel only.

The company also emphasized the importance of data backup procedures. Regular backups of important procurement records were conducted to prevent data loss in case of system failures. This reinforced my understanding of the critical role that data security plays in maintaining organizational integrity and trust.

2. Ergonomic Practices:

With much of the work involving prolonged periods at computers, Tonnex Info-Tech promoted ergonomic practices to ensure employee comfort and prevent musculoskeletal disorders. I was encouraged to maintain proper posture while seated, use adjustable chairs, and take regular breaks to stretch and relieve tension.

The office layout was designed to minimize strain, with monitor heights adjusted to eye level and keyboard placements optimized for ease of use. These practices not only enhanced my comfort but also increased productivity by reducing fatigue.

3. Emergency Preparedness:

Tonnex Info-Tech took emergency preparedness seriously. I participated in orientation sessions that covered emergency procedures, including fire drills and evacuation protocols. Familiarization with emergency exits and assembly points was crucial in ensuring that all employees knew how to respond effectively in case of an emergency.

The company also maintained first aid kits readily available in case of minor injuries. Training sessions were conducted periodically to equip employees with basic first aid skills, further enhancing workplace safety.

4. Health Guidelines:

In light of health concerns such as the COVID-19 pandemic, Tonnex Info-Tech implemented health guidelines that included regular sanitization of workspaces, availability of hand sanitizers, and encouragement of social distancing where applicable. These measures created a safer work environment and demonstrated the company's commitment to employee health. By adhering to these safety precautions, Tonnex Info-Tech fostered a culture of safety that contributed to a productive working atmosphere while minimizing risks associated with workplace hazards.

3.4 CHALLENGES FACED DURING MY SIWES PROGRAMME

While my experience at Tonnex Info-Tech was enriching and educational, it came with its own set of challenges that tested my adaptability and problem-solving skills. Below are some key challenges I encountered during my SIWES program:

1. Adapting to Real-World Processes:

Transitioning from theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom to practical applications in a professional setting posed initial challenges. In school, procurement processes are often simplified for educational purposes; however, in a real-world context, these processes are more complex and require attention to detail.

For instance, understanding how to navigate supplier negotiations while considering factors such as pricing, quality standards, and delivery timelines was initially daunting. However, with guidance from my supervisors and hands-on experience, I gradually adapted to these complexities.

2. Time Management:

Balancing multiple tasks simultaneously proved challenging at times. The fast-paced environment at Tonnex Info-Tech required me to prioritize tasks effectively while managing deadlines. There were occasions when urgent requests from different departments coincided, necessitating quick decision-making on which tasks required immediate attention.

To address this challenge, I developed a time management strategy that involved creating daily task lists prioritized by urgency and importance. This approach helped me stay organized and ensured that I met deadlines without compromising quality.

3. Communication Barriers:

Effective communication is essential for successful collaboration within any organization; however, I encountered occasional communication barriers between departments regarding procurement needs or issues. For example, there were instances when the Networking Department's requirements were not clearly communicated, leading to misunderstandings about specifications or timelines.

To mitigate this challenge, I took the initiative to establish regular check-in meetings with department heads to clarify expectations and ensure alignment on procurement activities. This proactive approach not only improved communication but also fostered stronger relationships among team members.

4. Supplier Reliability Issues:

One significant challenge I faced was dealing with unreliable suppliers who failed to deliver products on time or did not meet quality standards as promised. For instance, during a critical

project requiring specific hardware components, one supplier delayed delivery by several days without prior notice.

Addressing this issue required quick thinking and problem-solving skills. I collaborated with my supervisor to identify alternative suppliers who could fulfill our needs on short notice while ensuring we maintained quality standards. This experience taught me the importance of having contingency plans in place for procurement activities.

5. Understanding Regulatory Compliance:

Navigating regulatory compliance related to procurement processes was another challenge I encountered during my internship. Ensuring compliance with local laws governing procurement practices required thorough knowledge of legal frameworks that I had not fully explored in school.

To overcome this challenge, I sought guidance from experienced colleagues who provided insights into relevant regulations. Additionally, I conducted research on compliance requirements specific to the IT sector, which enhanced my understanding of legal considerations in procurement.

6. Cultural Adaptation:

As a student transitioning from an academic environment into a corporate setting, adapting to the workplace culture at Tonnex Info-Tech presented its own set of challenges. Understanding the dynamics of teamwork, office etiquette, and professional communication styles took time as I navigated interactions with colleagues from diverse backgrounds.

Engaging actively in team discussions and seeking feedback on my communication style helped me acclimate more quickly to the company culture while fostering positive relationships with coworkers.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 **SUMMARY**

The SIWES program at Tonnex Info-Tech was a pivotal experience in my academic and professional journey as a Procurement and Supply Chain Management student. Throughout my internship, I engaged in various tasks that allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings. My responsibilities included procurement planning, supplier sourcing and evaluation, purchase order management, inventory monitoring, documentation, and reporting. I utilized several tools and equipment essential for effective procurement processes, including specialized procurement software, inventory management systems, and standard office equipment. Safety precautions were rigorously observed, encompassing data security measures, ergonomic practices, emergency preparedness, and health guidelines.

Despite the enriching nature of the experience, I encountered challenges such as adapting to real-world processes, managing time effectively, overcoming communication barriers, dealing with supplier reliability issues, understanding regulatory compliance, and adapting to workplace culture. Each of these challenges provided valuable learning opportunities that enhanced my skills and prepared me for future endeavors in the field.

Overall, my time at Tonnex Info-Tech not only deepened my understanding of procurement and supply chain management within an IT context but also equipped me with practical skills that are essential for success in the industry.

4.2 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, my industrial experience at Tonnex Info-Tech has been instrumental in bridging the gap between academic theory and practical application. The exposure to real-world procurement processes has enriched my understanding of how supply chain management operates within a technology-driven environment. I have gained critical insights

into the importance of effective communication, meticulous record-keeping, strategic supplier management, and adherence to safety protocols.

This experience has confirmed my passion for pursuing a career in Procurement and Supply Chain Management. The skills I developed—such as negotiation techniques, analytical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and time management—will undoubtedly serve me well as I embark on my professional journey.

Moreover, the supportive work environment at Tonnex Info-Tech fostered personal growth and professional development. The mentorship provided by experienced colleagues was invaluable in navigating challenges and enhancing my confidence in executing procurement tasks.

4.3 RECOMMENDATION

Based on my experiences during the SIWES program at Tonnex Info-Tech, I offer the following recommendations for both future interns and the organization:

For Future Interns:

- Embrace Learning Opportunities: Approach every task with a willingness to learn.
 Take initiative by asking questions and seeking clarification when needed. This attitude will enhance your understanding of processes and improve your overall experience.
- 2. Develop Time Management Skills: Prioritize tasks effectively to manage multiple responsibilities efficiently. Utilize tools such as calendars or task lists to stay organized and meet deadlines without compromising quality.
- Foster Relationships: Build strong relationships with colleagues across departments.
 Effective networking can facilitate collaboration and provide support when navigating challenges.

4. Seek Feedback: Regularly seek feedback from supervisors or peers on your performance. Constructive criticism is essential for personal growth and skill enhancement.

For Tonnex Info-Tech:

- Structured Orientation Programs: Implement structured orientation programs for new interns to familiarize them with company policies, procedures, tools used in procurement activities, and safety protocols. This will help interns acclimate more quickly to the organizational environment.
- 2. Mentorship Opportunities: Encourage experienced employees to mentor interns throughout their tenure. This mentorship can provide valuable insights into industry practices while fostering a supportive learning environment.
- Regular Training Sessions: Organize regular training sessions on emerging trends in procurement and supply chain management to keep employees updated on best practices and industry standards.
- 4. Feedback Mechanisms: Establish formal feedback mechanisms where interns can share their experiences and suggestions for improvement after their tenure. This input can help enhance the internship program for future participants.

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