

Field of application	Career Enhancement Strategy under University Business Linkages
Abstract	As tertiary education in Ghana keeps growing without the corresponding expansion in employment, the need for industrial attachment and internships become more crucial. Overcrowding at workplaces and factories and over the last year, the outbreak of Covid-19 with its social distancing, underscores the need for virtual internship. With improvement in ICT speed and Learning Management tools, virtual internships have been tried and tested in some parts of the globe.
Stakeholders / Roles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students ● Academic Faculty ● Employers and Supervisors: Ghana Employers Association ● Trade Associations: Ghana National Chamber of Commerce (GNCCI), Association of Ghanaian Industries (AGI), ● Alumni: Linking Universities to industry ● University Information Technology Services (UITS)
Objectives and Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To establish the acceptability of virtual internships as alternatives to in-person internships. (It is new in Ghana and must be rolled out with care.) ● To examine areas of employment that effectively support virtual internships. (Not every career lends itself easily for virtual internship) ● To establish the minimum duration adequate for virtual internships. ● To map out the chain of stakeholders necessary in developing virtual internships in Ghana.
Implementation plan including milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish KNUST Internship Placement Centre (KIPC) (April 2022) ● Appoint a team of Coordinators for internships (Both virtual and in-person) (May 2022) ● Establish a consultative process of involving stakeholders especially employers to lend spaces for virtual internships (June 2022) ● With time, reduce in-person internships and increase virtual internships (January 2023).
Linkages/ interfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yet to be established KNUST Internship Placement Centre (KIPC) ● Alumni Office ● Centre for Business Development ● Other Centres in the University (TCC, BIRD, ENERGY CENTRE Etc.) Business Associations