



BANUU

Designing new pathways for employability and entrepreneurship
of Iraqi students in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage



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BANUU RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Report on internship activities (WP3 – Pilot internships and their structuring in degree courses)

In order to support the introduction of compulsory internships in HEIs in Iraq, in particular in the field of Humanities, two operational Work Packages (WP2, WP3) within the BANUU workplan have been dedicated to the organisation of pilot internships (Activities 3.1, 3.2, 3.4) in the three key sectors of Cultural Heritage Management, Cultural Tourist Guides and Preventive Archaeology. Based on the activities achieved in the first part of the project (WP2), including the training of selected administrative staff (Activity 2.2) able to organise and manage internships programs from efficient and student-friendly offices (Activity 2.3), the implementation of pilot internships has been possible through the support of the partner universities in Iraq, which collaborated to establish a cooperation pattern with the public and private sectors. Agreements have been signed with different companies operating in all key sectors but especially in Cultural Heritage Management and Cultural Tourist Guides: for instance, with the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage ([link](#)), the national agency for the preservation and management of the Cultural Heritage in Iraq, or Bil Weekend ([link](#)), a leading Travel and Tourism company in the metropolitan area of Baghdad.

Between 2022 and 2023, over 250 students participated to the pilot internships opened thanks to the effort and cooperation of the BANUU partners for a minimum period of 1 month up to 3 months. The interns had the opportunity to gain new insights and enhance their skills in different fields, among which:

- The management of large samples of data, from paper archives to electronic databases;
- The value of networking and collaboration with the colleagues and supervisors, which can be a primary element to gain experience and constant feedbacks;
- The importance of coordination between different agencies and companies to reach wider aims and results;
- The coordination among personnel from different educational backgrounds (archaeology, art history, conservation) as a mean to better frame issues and find correct solutions to them;
- The use of electronic resources such as social platforms to increase the interest and engagement in Cultural Heritage among the younger sectors of Iraqi society;
- The importance of English-speaking personnel in the public and private companies related to the management and enhancement of Iraqi archaeological and historical heritage, in order to improve the outreach and increase international tourism in the country;

Above the practical activities and the resulting acquisition of original knowledge and skills, the pilot internships offered the students the opportunity to be aware of the needs of the job market in the field of Humanities in Iraq, based on the current preservation and enhancement conditions of the national archaeological and historical heritage.



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Selected pictures from the pilot internships program





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