

Tips for finding an organization in which to do fieldwork for “Digital Transformations of Organizations” course

Students who enroll in “Digital Transformations of Organizations” will spend one hour each week onsite in an organization that is at least 5 years old, has at least 10 staff, and has undergone-- or is undergoing-- ICT-related change processes in order to complete a weekly fieldwork assignment. Any kind of organization in any sector is fine, as long as it meets these fieldwork site criteria. It is not necessary to know someone in an organization before you contact the organization about your fieldwork request, but *it is very important for each student to personally initiate and establish a relationship with someone in the organization* in order to build trust and mutual respect. Beginning with the initiation of a fieldsite relationship, the process of conducting fieldwork is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate and further develop your professional communication skills.

Here are some tips and question to help you identify some organizations that might be good options for you:

- **You do not need to work for an organization in order to do fieldwork in it.** You might actually have an easier time (and learn more) doing fieldwork in an organization at which you are an “outsider”.
- **Consider your location and logistics.** Based on where you live, your schedule during business hours, and your transportation options, identify the neighborhoods/areas where it would be most convenient for you to get to each week. What are some organizations with offices in those areas that might meet the course criteria? Keep in mind any non-business organizations such as libraries, nonprofits, youth and social service agencies, etc, that might for you to get to, along with businesses. A campus organization or UW admin unit or department that meets the fieldwork site criteria could also be options.
- **Who do you admire as a leader, and for what organizations do they work?** In view of your interest in leadership studies, are there any leaders in region whom you admire who work for a business, nonprofit, or government agency that meet the fieldwork site criteria? If so, you could reach out to those folks and see if they are willing to be your organizational liaison.
- **What kinds of organizations interest you?** This fieldwork assignment gives you a chance to explore an organization that is structured similarly or differently from others with which you are familiar, and that operates in a sector or industry that you’d like to learn more about.
- **How could this fieldwork experience help build your professional network?** Beginning with your first communication with an organization you’d like to consider as an option for this fieldwork, you will be developing your professional network in ways that might help shape your career path. So consider what kinds of people you’d like to meet, and how you want to present yourself and your larger interests as well your request to conduct fieldwork.

Questions? Contact Heather Werckle