

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Apprenticeship

Currently, competition for jobs is becoming increasingly fierce as the number of job applicants from various universities continues to rise, while available job openings remain limited. As college graduates, students certainly have diplomas that serve as proof of their academic abilities. However, in reality, a diploma alone is not enough to secure a job, as many companies and government agencies also consider applicants' work experience and skills.

Graduates who lack work experience and skills generally face various challenges when entering the workforce. This is because the knowledge they acquire during their studies is largely theoretical, so students do not yet fully understand how to apply that knowledge directly in the field. In addition, time and space constraints in the campus learning process mean that students' practical experience remains relatively limited.

Therefore, universities require students to participate in internship or practical training programs. An internship is a learning process that involves direct immersion in the workplace within each student's respective field. Through internships, students are expected to apply the knowledge they learned during their studies to real-world work situations. In addition, internships can enhance students' knowledge, skills, and work experience, which will serve as a foundation for entering the professional workforce.

Bengkalis State Polytechnic is one of the higher education institutions that requires its students to complete an internship as a requirement for graduation. The institution was established by the Bengkalis Regency Government through the Gema Bahari Foundation under its original name, Bengkalis Maritime Polytechnic, which offered three degree programs: Marine Electrical Engineering, Marine Engineering, and Marine Mechanical Engineering.

As the institution developed, the Bengkalis Maritime Polytechnic was renamed the Bengkalis Polytechnic and came under the auspices of the Bengkalis Bangun Insani Foundation (YBI), offering five degree programs: Marine Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, and Business Administration. In July 2001, the Bengkalis Polytechnic admitted its first class of new students. Subsequently, in 2006, two new programs were launched: Business English and Computer Science.

On December 26, 2011, Bengkalis Polytechnic officially became a state polytechnic under the name Bengkalis State Polytechnic, pursuant to Regulation of the Minister of National Education No. 28 of 2011 concerning the Establishment, Organization, and Operational Procedures of Bengkalis State Polytechnic. Currently, Bengkalis State Polytechnic offers nine departments and twenty-one degree programs.

Bengkalis State Polytechnic is a vocational college dedicated to producing competent graduates in various fields of expertise. Therefore, the college has implemented a mandatory internship program for students in their final semester. The internship program serves as a means for students to develop their skills before entering the workforce. This program is expected to provide real-world experience, enhance students' competencies, and better prepare them for the professional workplace.

In addition to being a graduation requirement, the internship program also aims to produce graduates who possess the necessary skills, are job-ready, demonstrate good ethics, and are capable of facing challenges in the professional world. These objectives are achieved by placing students in institutions or companies that align with their fields of study. Specifically for students in the International Business Administration program, internships serve as a means to gain firsthand exposure to the business world and work environment, while also gaining experience and enhancing their abilities so they become more skilled, responsive, and competitive in the future. Upon completion of the internship, students are required to submit an Internship Report as a form of accountability for the internship and as one of the requirements for advancing to the next semester.

The internship at Pertamina Patra Niaga RU II Dumai, which will take place from February 2 to May 31, 2025, aims to apply academic knowledge in a real-world work environment, gain experience in the field of administration, and fulfill one of the graduation requirements for the D4 International Business Administration program.

1.2 Purpose and Benefits of the Apprenticeship

1.2.1 Purpose of the Apprenticeship

Internships or work-based training (KP) are mandatory academic activities for students at the Bengkalis State Polytechnic as part of their degree programs. To ensure that these internships yield the best possible results, there are several objectives that must be achieved, namely:

1. Provide hands-on work experience in the industry and a professional work environment at PT Pertamina Patra Niaga RU II Dumai.
2. To enhance students' knowledge, skills, and abilities in their respective fields of study throughout their academic program.
3. To gain a deeper understanding of the work systems, work culture, and operational activities implemented at PT Pertamina Patra Niaga RU II Dumai.
4. To foster discipline, a sense of responsibility, communication skills, and teamwork in the workplace.
5. Applying the theories and knowledge gained during the course of study to real-world work practices in the field.

1.2.2 Benefits of an Apprenticeship

Based on the objectives of the internship, the benefits gained by the author are as follows:

1. Gain the opportunity to directly apply the knowledge and theoretical concepts learned during their studies to the workplace.
2. To serve as a means of comparing the knowledge gained in the educational setting with its application in the workplace.

3. Students can develop a sense of discipline and responsibility in performing their duties in the workplace.
4. Gain work experience that can be used to improve skills before entering the professional workforce.
5. Gain the opportunity to learn about and operate various pieces of equipment used by companies and offices in their day-to-day operations.

1.3 Significance of the Apprenticeship

The internship program offers many benefits for students, companies, and the Bengkalis State Polytechnic. Through this program, all parties can gain valuable experience, knowledge, and collaboration that support the learning process and prepare students for the workforce. The benefits of this internship program are as follows:

1. For Students

Students can experience firsthand the atmosphere and work systems in the industrial world. In addition to applying the knowledge they have gained during their studies, students also gain new experiences relevant to their field. Internships help students better understand their responsibilities at work, improve their communication skills, and build professional networks that will be useful for their future careers. With this experience, students are better prepared to enter the workforce after completing their education.

2. For Companies

Through internship programs, companies can build strong partnerships with universities. The presence of student interns can also help complete certain tasks, making work processes smoother and more efficient. In addition, companies can identify students with strong skills and potential who may become future employees. This collaboration can also enhance the company's positive image within the academic community.

3. For the Bengkalis State Polytechnic

The internship program is one way to strengthen the relationship between Bengkalis State Polytechnic and the companies or institutions where students complete their internships. Through this program, the college can gain insight into the needs of the workforce, thereby improving the quality of education and the competencies of its graduates. In addition, this collaboration also helps introduce Bengkalis State Polytechnic to the broader industrial community.