

BRIDGING THE THEORY-PRACTICE GAP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: THE NEED FOR INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR NIGERIAN POLITICAL SCIENTISTS IN TRAINING

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Abstract

This article examines the deficiency of Political Science traditional teaching technique in Nigerian universities. For over six decades, the teaching of Political Science revolves around students taking pre-processed lecture notes, individual and group assignments, seminars and in-class examination rather than the practical based method in the transmission of Political Science knowledge. The traditional teaching technique de-emphasized active politics, it creates a wide gap between the theory and practice of politics. To bridge the gap, the article relies mainly on secondary sources and argues that the teaching of Political Science should go beyond classrooms and involve placement of students for internship in parliaments, political party offices, active engagement in political sensitization, community projects, political campaigns and debates. The internship would equip students with practical skills that would enable them to bridge the gap between theory and practice and at the same time become theorists and practitioners of politics at various levels.

Keywords: traditional teaching, active learning, internship, politics, Political Science, Political Scientists

Introduction

Historically, Political Science as an academic discipline was first taught in American Universities in the 1850s. Before the 1850s, it was taught as a sub-discipline of other academic disciplines such as Economics, Law, History and Philosophy. In the late 18th and early 19th century, it was taught as a distinct academic discipline and spread across the European and African universities, including Nigeria. Those who study the course have formed various professional associations such as American Political Science Association (APSA) and the Nigeria Political Science Association (NPSA), among others (Anifowose, 2005). From the late 18th century to date, Political Science is concerned with the systematic study and analysis of politics at individual, groups and society levels. It also deals with the management and allocation of scarce resources within a nation-state, region, or local government. Political Science teaching revolves around creating a decent political system that meets the people's demands, such as security and welfare from the various government sources of finance such as taxes, grants, loans, fines,

rent and royalties. Harold (1930) defines it as the study of who gets What? When and How? Political Science systematically teaches politics in every sphere of human association, including family, schools, religious institutions and business firms. Its subject matter includes analyzing different political systems, political processes, theories of the evolution of states, and governance institutions (Kolodziej, 2005).

Like every other academic discipline, Political Science has sub-disciplines such as Comparative Politics, International Relations, National Politics, Public Administration and Political Theory/Philosophy (Ola, 2010). At the end of their academic training, political scientists engage in public service careers, civil service, military and para-military, legislative aid/assistants, research consultants, political advisers to public office holders, professional lobbyists and teaching in universities. The aforementioned career opportunities available for political scientists suggest the need for an internship for Political Science students to acquire both the theory and practical knowledge of politics.

Furthermore, Political Science train students to theorize, build models and paradigms that would aid our comprehensive understanding of politics. The understanding of the behaviour of political actors has been an essential component of the Political Science discipline. As such, there is a need for an interaction between the students of politics and political actors beyond the confines of the classroom. The contact and connection between the students and political actors will help bridge the gap between theory and practice of politics.

Besides, across the globe, there is a growing clamour for experiential learning by teaching politics beyond the confines of the classrooms (Craig, 2012; Curtis and Blair, 2010; Slom, 2010). In Europe, America, Canada and Asian universities, an internship in relevant government and non-governmental organizations has been an old tradition that helps students to appreciate the dynamics of politics and governance. Recently, some South African universities are making internship in relevant establishment compulsory for Political Science students.

However, the teaching of Political Science in Nigerian universities neglected the practical aspect of politics, which consequently contribute to producing Political Science graduates that could only theorize politics. In contrast, this article argues that just like Law, Political Science could prepare Political Science students to become practitioners through internship training that focus on the practical aspect of politics and governance. It would provide an opportunity for Nigerian students of Political Science to study the behaviour of Nigerian politicians, the electorate, political party leaders, government officials, members of the civil society organizations, political activists, opinion leaders and other stakeholders. The internship would promote students interest in learning first-hand strategies adopted by politicians that are not often discussed in conventional Political Science classrooms.

The Sub-discipline of Political Science

Although at the undergraduate level, students of Political Science study briefly all the sub-discipline of Political Science to understand the areas. However, most of the Political Science Departments in Nigerian universities encourage students to specialize in National Government, Public Administration, Comparative Politics, Political Theory and International Relations.

National Government

This is one of the major sub-field of Political Science that deals with studying a specific national government and politics such as American government and Politics, Nigerian government and politics

and other countries. Specifically, it dwells on various forms of government leading to classifications such as democracy, authoritarianism, totalitarianism, oligarch, and ethnocracy. It also dwells on constitution and constitutionalism, human rights, political parties and pressure groups, voting behaviour, the functions of the various arms of government such as the legislature, executive and the judiciary (Anifowose, 2005). The essence of this sub-field is to produce experts on various national governments and politics.

Comparative Politics

Comparative politics as a sub-field of Political Science primarily compare and contrast different systems of government. Through comparative methods and theories, political scientist compares democratic and non-democratic regimes, such as democracy, authoritarianism and totalitarianism. It also compares different states foreign policies, political socialization and culture and stages of development of various states (Almond, 2020). Furthermore, comparative political scientists categorize political systems into industrialized, non-industrialized, democratic, non-democratic, North and South communist, capitalist, developed, and under-developed through logical and scientific analysis.

Public Administration

The focus of Public Administration is the study of mechanisms and structures through which government implement its policies and programs. The emphasis is usually on national, states and local government as well as intergovernmental relations. Students of Public Administration interrogates the efficiency of bureaucratic structures, processes and procedures concerning policy formulation and implementation (Andrew, 1973). The purpose of this sub-discipline is to maximize the utilization of resources and minimize waste by avoiding duplication or what is inefficient for improved service delivery (Ador, (2020). This sub-discipline produces well trained public administrators who are familiar with the dynamics of the Nigerian public and private administration.

Political Theory

This is perhaps the oldest form of political enquiry in the study of politics. It has a root in the writings of great political philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. This sub-field tries to answer questions and develop theories about abstract issues such as ethics, authority, the nature of liberty and freedom, the meaning of civil rights and civil liberties (Berger, 2009). It examines how governments should function and provide answers to critical questions such as what is a state? What is the origin of the state? For whose interest the state exist? Why should citizens obey the state? What is a good life? When should citizens' revolt, and when a revolution is justifiable? (Abubakar & Taiwo, 2005). Answers to these questions generate lots of political ideas and theories that remain valuable in the history of political enquiry. Although this branch of Political Science is idealistic, normative, value-laden, speculative, it is relevant in the study of contemporary Political Science cannot be over-emphasized.

Political Economy

Political economy is both a sub-discipline and a concept for scientific analyses in Political Science (Koch & Buch-Hansen, 2020). As a sub-discipline, it provides a holistic understanding of how Economics and Politics are intertwined affect each other. It provides answers to why some people are rich while others are poor, why some countries are rich while others are poor, why are countries in the global South controlling the economy of the global North? Why is there hegemonization of the Euro-Dollar against other currency? For whose interest the Bretton woods institutions such as IMF and World Bank exist? Political Economist examines how different modes of production that human society has gone through, such as Slavery, Feudalism, Capitalism, Socialism and Capitalism (Mukand & Rodrik, 2020). It provides answers to what led to the demise of one mode of production and the emergence of another mode of production. Generally, Political Scientists in this subfield study the impact of economic power on international relations or how different economies develop within similar political systems (Abubakar & Taiwo, 2005).

International Relations

There are two opposing views among scholars regarding whether IR is a distinct academic discipline or a sub-field within Political Science. The first group of scholars argues that IR is a sub-discipline of political science, while the second group argues that it is a distinct academic discipline. Stanly Hoffman argues that it is intellectually and analytically possible to distinguish a field of study without being taught in a separate department (Folker, 2006). On the other hand, Morton Kaplan argues that IR is a sub-field of political science, in the same sense we talk about Astrophysics as a sub-field of Physics (Solomon and Ferdinand, 2009). However, in whatever perspective we chose to examine it, Political Science and IR are concern with authoritative allocation, distribution and exercise of power. The major difference that can be deduced between the two disciplines lies in ecology. While Political Science deals with the study and exercise of power within a political system, IR focus on the analysis of power at the international level. IR as a sub-discipline of International Relations grew speedily as a result of growing interstates relations, interdependence and production of weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missiles (Solomon and Ferdinand, 2009).

The central focus of IR is the study of interactions among nation-states. IR is not simply relations among states or intergovernmental relations; it encompasses all forms of relations between states and non-state actors across national boundaries. It is characterized by the intense degree of interdependence between not only states but continents across the globe. IR as an academic field of study cover six major areas such as foreign policy, international politics, international economic relations, diplomacy, strategic studies, international organizations and international law. The purpose of IR is to study a common ground and solutions to international war and how peace and security could be achieved in the international system (Cox & Campanaro, 2016).

Approaches to the Teaching of Political Science in Nigerian Universities

There is no universally acceptable Political Science teaching technique. The teaching of Political Science, just like most of the Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines, involves the transmission of knowledge from teachers to students either through traditional in-class lectures, seminars, group assignment/discussion public lectures or virtual learning. However, In Nigerian universities, depending on the curriculum and circumstances, teachers usually employ any of the following teaching techniques and transmit Political Science knowledge to students;

Traditional Teaching Method

This is also known as teacher-centred and is perhaps the oldest teaching technique of teaching Political Science. Between the 1970s and 90s, in most Nigerian Universities, conventional classroom lecture seems to be the centrepiece of instruction, where student absorb pre-processed in-class lecture. This method comprises the in-class lecture method, storytelling, repetition and drill, review and note-giving. As the name implies, it is a teacher controlled method that gives the teacher a dominating role. In this method, a teacher introduces the topic to the class and logically explains the contents to the students. Using this technique, the student role is primarily limited to listening and writing notes of what is being discussed by the teacher. At the end of the session, the students ask questions, and the teacher responds (McCarthy & Anderson, 2000; Khayat, Hafezi , Asgari & Talebzadeh, 2020). According to Jaques (1992), the traditional format encourages students to concentrate on superficial indicators rather than on fundamental underlying principles, thus neglecting deep (active) learning.

Active Learning Technique

Active learning refers to "experiences in which students are thinking about the subject matter" as they interact with the instructor and each other (McKeachie, 1999, p. 44; Gamson, 1991). This type of learning applies to all disciplines, particularly Social Sciences. Recently, given the numerous limitations of traditional teaching techniques, Political Science teachers in many Nigerian Universities activate the use of active learning techniques or what is known as student-centred methods. Active learning methods are highly motivational, engaging, and maximize students' participation and freely contribute to the classroom discussion and exchange ideas. The primary purpose of active learning is to enable students to express their independent opinion and positively contribute to debates (Bharti, 2020). This implies that active learning strategies involve various collaborative classroom activities, ranging from long-term simulations to five-minute collaborative problem-solving exercises. The active learning techniques involve; inquiry, discovery, problem-solving, springboard, case study, role-playing, small group discussions, assignment, supervised study, and fieldwork methods (Bonwell & Eison, 1991; Sutherland & Bonwell, 1996).

In contrast to the teacher-centred technique, active learning techniques have enhanced students interest in political science, generate a more stimulating classroom atmosphere and gives students room to think beyond the box. Furthermore, active learning techniques enable students to engage in active problem-solving, and at the same time, absorb and retain information better. Using these techniques implies that students are given group or individual assignment to write on a particular problem, presents and receive feedback from the teacher and members of the class. This is the most common Political Science teaching technique in the majority of Nigerian universities.

Seminars and Group Discussion

This is another component of active teaching of Political Science in Nigerian Universities. It is popular because it is a resource-based learning method in which teachers actively involve students. In seminars, lecturers assigned seminar topics to students and asked them to research and present their findings to the class members for comments, observation, and criticisms. This implies that both the instructors and the students directly transmit the knowledge to the students/ participant in a conventional classroom setting. This technique allows the students to interact with each other, ask and respond to questions under the instructor's supervision. (Adendoff, Foster and Walter; 2008). In some cases, the

teacher divided the class into groups and assigned topics according to the groups for research and presentation to the class members for discussion, appraisal and inputs from the other class members. Using this method enable the learner to become creative by actively engaging in academic debates while the lectures listen and moderate discussion (David, 20010).

Public Lectures

Occasionally, Departments of Political Science organize public lectures by inviting resource persons, politicians, government functionaries, political party leaders, traditional rulers and other stakeholders as guest speakers. The public lecture provides an opportunity for students to meet and interact with practitioners outside the university environment. This interaction is usually seen as an opportunity for students to learn new ideas related to their discipline (Olawepo, 2003). Despite the argument that Public lectures functions for enlightenment purposes, many Political Science Departments, the public lecture has become an annual event that brought together political actors and students to brainstorm (Peter, 2006). This technique is unique because the students listen to the various stakeholders from different backgrounds and orientations who speak based on their experience over the years in their fields of endeavour. It has become a tradition in many Political Science Department across the Nigerian universities to invite the Presidents, Governors, Ministers, Commissioners and Heads of government Department and agencies to the campus and speak to the students on topical issues.

Interview Technique

Political Science students use the interview method to acquire knowledge from lecturers and other resource persons in relevant fields. Teachers to pass knowledge and information onto their students through an interview (Ebert and McKenzie, 1989). Furthermore, as part of the academic requirement, Nigerian Political Science students are mandated to write seminar papers, articles, and projects as part of graduation requirements. In fulfilling the partial requirement, they often interview their lectures and other stakeholders both from within and outside the university environment. Often, students engage in an in-depth face to face and online interview as part of the learning technique to acquire knowledge on politics, governance and other related issues. Although face-to-face interviews may be expensive, it provides an avenue for Political Science students to meet and directly discuss with various stakeholders to get first-hand information.

Virtual Learning Technique

The role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and research cannot be overemphasized in all the academic disciplines in Nigerian University. There is hardly any research or teaching without an element of ICT (Hlioui, Aloui & Gargouri, 2020). Virtual learning is one of the contributions of ICT in the teaching of Political Science. Although, before the 21st century, virtual teaching technique is not popular within the Nigerian conventional universities, the technique gains prominence after the emergence of distance learning programmes (online) in various conventional universities and online universities such as the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). In Open Universities, the teaching of Political Science is done virtually because the lecturers transmit the knowledge using any of the ICT teaching platforms such as Google meet, Zoom, Facebook and YouTube to students who reside in various locations at the same time. However, the recent outbreak of the Covid - 19 Pandemic has changed the teaching praxis from conventional in-class lectures to virtual learning technique in most Nigerian universities where Political Science is being taught. The use of the internet

has enabled students to learn remotely from their homes and other locations virtually through mobile phones, laptops and other electronic gadgets.

However, despite multiple teaching techniques within the Political Science discipline, there seems to be a huge gap between theory and practice among Political Science students. Often, very few Nigerian graduates of Political Science show interest and engage in politics as practitioners. There is a need for more political scientists to participate actively in Nigerian politics as theorists and practitioners. This can be achieved through student's internship programs in relevant areas that would expose students to politics and administration before graduation.

The section below will examine the relevance of the internship program for the student of Political Science. Examples would be drawn from some selected universities in America, Canada, United Kingdom (UK), Europe and Africa to show the imperative of the program for Nigerian Political Science Students.

The Political Science Internship Programs in Universities in Foreign Universities

In natural Science, Management and Law related disciplines, the role of internship cannot be overemphasized. The internship's essence is to expose the students to a professional learning experience based on practical works related to a student's field of study and career of interest. It widens the student capacity by exploring new skills, development and trends in their chosen disciplines. An internship also offers the students the opportunity to learn new ideas beyond the confines of the classrooms. The application of Political Science theories and approaches such as institutional, behavioural, system and structural functionalism, among others, requires the understanding of how the Political system operates in the larger political environment. Through internship programs in relevant organizations, Political Science students gain working experience about how different forms of government and economic systems operate (<https://careers.umbc.edu/employers/internships/what-is-an-internship/>, April 6, 2021).

The internship program has been part of the Political Science curriculum and academic tradition in Canadian universities for a relatively long time. It accords the Political Science students of Canadian universities with an opportunity to be better equipped with practical skills in their chosen carrier. For instance, students of Political Science at the University of Toronto attend an internship at both public and private organizations like the Amnesty International, Atlantic Council of Canada, Bundestag Internship (Emigré Memorial German Internship Programme), Canadian Cooperative Association, Canadian Feed the Children, CARE Canada, Coady International Institute, Youth in Partnership Program and Coalition for the International Criminal Court. Other organizations include Chatham House, Coady International Institute, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Consulate General of Canada, New York City Eligibility, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Federal Public Sector Research (Affiliate Programme), Federal Public Sector Youth Internship Programme, Institute for Security Studies Africa (Nairobi), Institute for the US, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank and World Trade Organization. The programme is designed for the student to do their internship in their respective countries as long as it is within the relevant organizations as approved by the Department. The internship aims to bridge the gap between what the students were taught in the classroom what is obtainable in the real world. At the end of their studies, the Canadian universities graduate of Political Science emerged as a theorist and are equipped with skills to perform better in chosen areas of specialization (<https://politics.utoronto.ca/undergraduate/internships/>, April 10, 2021).

In the UK, the Department of the Political Science University of Kentucky offers a stimulating internship program for Political science students. The idea is to widen the Department's students' horizon to gain first-hand experience as it related their academic preparation to work settings. Through the internship program, many students discover new ideas, change their area of interest and make valuable contact and connections with the outside world even before the end of their internships. Furthermore, through an internship, students often volunteer or take jobs with government agencies, political campaigns, law firms, and the like (<https://polisci.as.uky.edu/ps-internships>, April 12, 2021).

The Department of the Political Science University of Washington has a long history of an internship programme. The programme provides internship opportunities for Political Science students in US congregational offices, campaigns and party offices at federal at states, local government level, and NGOs. The programme is designed to earn students 15 credits of POL S 497 (5 of which can count for Political Science major requirements). Some of the organizations' students can do their internship include Northwest Progressive Institute: Electoral Analyst (Judicial). Northwest Progressive Institute: Electoral Analyst (Judicial), Blue Wave Political Partners, African Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest, Public Defender Association, Internship with U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labour and Pensions (HELP), Office of the Ranking Member, African Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest, Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Department of State, National Security Agency. The relevance of the programme is to expose the students to their working environment. To earn academic credits for the internship, they must relate their internship experience to what they were taught in the classrooms. The student's Pol S 496 grade is determined by their satisfactory internship performance report (<https://www.polisci.washington.edu/internships>, April 12, 2021).

At the Arizona School of Politics and Global Studies, United States, Political Science students are encouraged to seek out research grants for different internship opportunities. POS 484 is not a conventional course but an internship offered by the Department for undergraduate students. The course is designed to provide the students with "hands-on" real-world experience for those who intend to work in government or think tanks in various organizations. Furthermore, it enables them to register with professional organizations, discover endless opportunities in their chosen carrier and prepare them for full-time jobs (<https://sps.asu.edu/pos-484>, April 12, 2021).

At the Department of Social and Political Sciences University of Cyprus, students are granted the opportunity to participate in an internship program in organizations related to their area of specialization for two months. These organizations include the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Defense, Education and Culture, Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Home cooperation, Press and Information Office and NGO- Support Centre and the Movement for Equality, Support, Anti-Racism (KISA). Students are evaluated based on a report received from the host organization (<http://ucy.ac.cy/sap/en/master-in-political-science/208-internship-programme>, April 12, 2021).

In South African universities, Political Science academic internship cover areas such as Law and Justice, public policy, political analysis, political campaigns and elections, legislative research, community outreach and political awareness and political advocacy. Political Science students participate in internship programs in the South African parliament, policy institutes, NGOs, government departments, agencies, and South African political party offices. The internship aims to expose students to acquire experience in active politics, policy formulation, and development. Besides familiarity with the

South African political system, internship students are exposed to South African cultural environments. The internship program exposes students to different South African cultures and cultural boundaries. It builds their CV's and competence to start an influential career in politics and administration within public and private organizations (<https://www.vacorps.com/internships/political-science/>, April 12, 2021).

As mentioned earlier, a Political Science student's internship is not new in America, Canada, UK and African universities. It has a long history in Europe, UK, America, Canada and South African Universities and colleges. From the aforementioned, the program has positively bridged the gap between the theory and practice for the students of the Political Science discipline. This article argues that introducing internship in relevant institutions for Nigerian Political Science students in Nigerian universities can effectively reduce the massive gap between theory and practice of politics and administration.

Internship as a Tool for Bridging the Gap between Theory and Practice of Politics for Nigerian Political Science Students

In Nigeria, Political Science teaching is dominated mainly by over theorization, with little or no attention on practical knowledge. Lack of practical skills creates the gap between theory and practice of national, regional and international politics. To bridge this gap, there is a need to teach Nigerian Political Science students beyond the classrooms' confines by placing them in areas related to the specific area they are specializing. Based on students' choice, they could be required to locate relevant organizations, either public or private, to undergo professional internship program in areas related to their chosen careers and interest. As earlier mentioned, the placement of Political Science students on internship will expose them to practical skills and Job opportunities in their interest areas.

For instance, those specializing in the Nigerian government and politics may aspire to work as civil servants, political consultants, and legislative aid/advisers to political officeholders at local, state, and federal levels. This category of students can secure an internship in national or states parliaments, political party offices, interest groups such as labour unions. They can also engage in active political sensitization of the electorates, participate in campaigns/debates and civil society groups' activities.

Furthermore, many Political Science students studied Civil-Military relations, besides Political Science graduate, found in military and para-military services. It is common to find Political Scientists in the Nigerian Army, Navy, Air force, Police, Customs Service, Immigration, and a host of others working as managers and administrators or public relations officers. This suggests that Nigerian government and politics students can be placed in military and para-military formations to equip them with civil-military relations techniques. There is a need for cohesion and cordial relationship between civilians and military personnel which civil-military engagements can achieve.

IR graduates are found in ministries for foreign affairs as career diplomats and civil servants. In international non-governmental organizations, they work as advocates of human rights, peace mediators, and ambassadors. In international financial institutions such as World Bank and IMF, IR graduates worked as agents and managers of various units. These offices and organizations are specialized agencies that require not just academic training but technical know-how and expertise. Therefore, it is imperative for undergraduate students specializing in IR to undergo internship in relevant local and international non-

governmental organizations to acquire practical knowledge and skills to build a future in these organizations. Places like the foreign missions, World Bank, IMF, international human right organizations and other regional, sub-regional and international organizations may serve as promising avenues for IR students.

Those who chose to specialize in Public Administration can locate a relevant organization in federal or state civil service commissions to acquaint themselves with policy identification, formulation, and implementation. This would enable them to appreciate the dynamics of policymaking in a natural political setting. Besides public organizations, human resources departments in private organizations such as insurance companies, banks, manufacturing companies, and other corporate public organization can serve as a good learning ground for those specializing in Public Administration. The idea is, after graduation, they will require minimal supervision to perform in their areas of interests.

The political economy is an interesting area of specialization with vast opportunities in international organizations such as the World Bank, the IMF and international donor agencies. Often, students who are in this area look forward to work in international financial institutions as managers/consultants. As such, they can seek an internship in these organization to prepare them for career opportunities.

Those who specialize in comparative politics can seek an internship in a democratic research institute that primarily study different forms of government. They can seek an internship in neighbouring countries that run different forms of government from what they have in their home countries. For instance, those from parliamentary democracy can secure an internship in the presidential democratic institution. The primary purpose is to understand the similarities and differences between the various forms and system of government, constitution and party systems.

Because of the Nigerian public and private organizations' nature and character, securing an internship may be difficult due to the bureaucratic bottlenecks. However, Departments of Political Science can cooperate and collaborate with relevant agencies within their domain and sign MOU with relevant organizations to accept Political Science students' internship. The finance aspect may sound difficult considering Nigeria's economic situation; the student can apply for grants from relevant non-governmental organizations to enroll on the programme. At the end of the internship programme, the students should write a comprehensive report and submit it to the assessment supervisor for grading.

Conclusion

Political Science as a distinct academic discipline is spreading exponentially across all the universities in the world. In Nigeria, there is hardly a university that does not offer Political Science as a course of study. At the same time, the course's teaching as a distinct academic discipline has gone through a much positive transformation in Nigerian Universities. However, despite its prominence, the course's teaching techniques revolve around conventional class methods.

This article argues that for the discipline to compete favourably with its peers in Law and Management sciences, there is a need for a teaching techniques revolution that would enable students to learn beyond the classrooms' confines. This can be achieved by sending students to participate in

internship programmes in relevant public and private organizations. Moreover, all over the world, academic disciplines continue to invent teaching strategies that make their discipline more rigorous and professional. Political Science should not be an exception. As argues earlier, similar to what is obtainable in foreign universities worldwide, as regards internship, there is a need to review the Political Science curriculum to incorporate internship program for the students of Political Science in Nigeria.

The programme would not only bridge the gap between theory and practice but make the discipline more professional. As indicated in the article, many students could secure research grants and jobs through internship programmes. As such, the program would go a long way in providing jobs for the student that perform better during the internship, thereby reducing unemployment for the teeming graduates of Political Science. The implementation of the programme would not come without challenges. However, with dedication, cooperation and collaboration between the Department of Political Science in various universities and relevant organizations, the programme only be realistic but realizable.

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