

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/an-exploration-of-the-formative-experiences-of-teaching-internships/>

This video is a detailed discussion by an education leader reflecting on their motivation and research related to teacher internships, particularly focusing on a 12-month unpaid internship program with mentorship for graduate teachers. The speaker emphasizes the importance of retaining quality teachers and how internships contribute to making graduates classroom-ready. They note a gap in literature regarding the direct impact of internships on graduates, despite some existing studies on principal perceptions and policy.

The research employed mixed methods, including surveys and semi-structured interviews, to gather insights from participants who completed teaching degrees between 2010 and 2020. The noteworthy finding is that all interviewed interns are still teaching six years later, indicating effective retention. Participants highlighted the significance of being part of a school community, engaging in collaborative practices, and developing their teaching identity over the course of their internship.

The speaker elaborates on how these internships provide consistent, real-world experience, allowing interns to learn classroom management from the beginning to the end of the school year. They underscore the role of communities of practice and links to teacher resilience, proposing a framework that connects these elements to support early career teachers.

The conclusion stresses the need for recognizing the value of internships in teacher preparation and suggests that policy changes could enhance funding for such programs to ensure that more pre-service teachers can engage in these invaluable experiences. The speaker advocates for broader research to explore the internship concept's application to a more diverse demographic of pre-service teachers.