Internship at the Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA) in Paris, France

Roxane Latrèche, class of 2015
My tasks

- Because the UIA is first and foremost a non-governmental organization, my work was similar to that in an association.
- Communications: updating social media such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter; being in touch with members.
- Planning: in the framework of the UIA’s 58th Congress in Florence centered on art and fashion law, I helped advertise the event through weekly newsletters and publications on social media mentioning the scientific and social activities organized.
- Research: in addition to my work in communications, I conducted research on the death penalty (in particular in the United States) and on applications of art law (restitution of looted artworks, copyrights, trademarks...).
My tasks

- The work I did was supervised by Marie-Pierre Liénard, with whom I developed a tremendous work relationship. She was very attentive and responsive and was ready to take the time to explain the work to me in order for me to fully comprehend what I was being asked.

- I communicated with my co-workers only in French, though the work I did involved English and Spanish as well. I recommend a high level of French to complete this internship.
The most rewarding aspect of my work

- Beyond the work itself, the internship at the UIA made me realize the importance of having a positive and cooperative work environment to work in. The UIA team was wonderful and their relationships extended beyond being just colleagues to being friends, without impeding on the quality of the work.

- Such good work relationships have a positive impact on the work being done as no member of the team was reluctant to let others know or ask for help when faced with an issue.

- In particular in the case of an association, where no single employee reaps a particular profit from the activities of the organization, teamwork is essential to swift and optimal functioning. My experience of the UIA illustrated this statement.
The wonderful team of the UIA
My impact on the UIA

- I believe that my work as a trilingual student was very useful to the activities of the UIA. As a multilingual and multicultural organization, the UIA benefits from the abundance of points of views coming from members from all over the world. On a more practical basis, the UIA systematically translates its documents into French, English and Spanish, which I was asked to do on many occasions and truly enjoyed. Such tasks help us move from simple translation to interpretation.

- I have a particular interest as well as past internship experience in art law, which helped me get particularly involved in the organization of the Congress. This past interest encouraged me to read more and wish to learn more on the topic, which I did in the course of the internship.
A multilingual and multicultural organization

At the Macau Congress in 2013
Though I thoroughly enjoyed this internship, it made me realize that I do not wish to work in communications. I nevertheless loved the «human relations» side of the work, being able to interact with individuals from all backgrounds and learn from them.

The internship and the knowledge I acquired regarding art law confirmed my desire to work in that field after my graduation. As a senior, I will be taking mostly art and art history classes, and I am planning on studying law (potentially in France) upon graduating.
After studying in Princeton for three years, this internship exposed me to a completely new kind of work ethic according to which work is only part of your day and should not become overwhelming.

This concept was manifested in the strict application of the 35-hour week, as well as the 1-hour lunch breaks that often require you to leave your desk and interact with your co-workers.

I truly believe that this ethic increases productivity when the employee is working, as he realizes that he only has a limited amount of time to complete a task and will strive to do so without working additional hours.
The work ethic mentioned in the previous slide allowed me to truly make the most of my stay in Paris, culturally and socially. I found ample time to visit the city and discover the cultural - artistic, historical, social and gastronomic.