

Newsletter No. 9

I thought it has been a while since I wrote the introduction page for our newsletter. Yeah, since 2011 with the newsletter No. 4. From 2012, I sometimes wrote an article for each edition and we had a board of editor to do their job: Macheri (M1), Lilian, Binbin (M22) and Veronica (M21). Result: 3 impressive issues for that year. However, we have had only one issue and this will be the second one for 2013.

When I decided to launch the 1st newsletter in March 2011, I was asking myself “how long will the newsletter survive”. Some issues had 16 or 17 pages, while others had several pages. I had written individual emails and spoke privately to student to encourage them to write article for our newsletter during their free time. In 2012, I tried very hard to thank students who had contributed to newsletters small gifts from me: a pen, a post card or an album..., and at the year end, a special gift asked from our Management, Innovation, Prospective department: an USB key. I knew that all the editors and editors in chief had to do the same or even struggled much more for the “birth” of a newsletter. I appreciate their great effort to make the newsletters at least deliver something to other students.

I promised the editors they could get a certificate but when I submitted it for approval, no reply at all. I then felt unmotivated. I had lots of other work to do, and of course, I get paid for that. Newsletter was just my idea with no “echo”, no remark in my career, and it was not the requirement from my “fiche de poste” (job description). I did it for nothing or maybe just to prove that I could create one of “Innovations” for our master programs. I failed and it was better to stop the newsletter I thought, until the day I met Binbin again. She was one of editors in chief in cohort 2012. She asked me about the newsletter and when she knew that I intended to stop it, she said it was really a pity. I said that I could write and devote my time for our newsletters but it seems to be of no use. She answered very simple, “it seems to be of no use if you stop”. That is why, I am typing the newsletter No.9.



Last year I asked some students who got the interesting internships to share their experience with current students. I got only one reply from Victoria Oshinowo (M22). This year, I got another reply for Ladi Torty (M22). Fabian Aberle (M21B) promised me to send his “secrets” soon. Well, not bad, 3 articles giving you many tips to get an internship! And it is you to decide your own strategy. Let’s start right now, although it may be late to search the internship now but it could be helpful for you in the future. Good luck and enjoy your reading.

internship advice



INTERNSHIP, INTERNSHIP, INTERNSHIP!!!

BY VICTORIA OSHINOWO



Victoria was last year's M22 student. I have been keeping a little memory about her family when they visited her here for the 1st time. Her mother and her uncles came to MiM office. They all wanted to take a picture with me. It was so sweet!

First of all I would like to congratulate all my colleagues for pulling through with all the courses and exams. We made it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I still remember my first day in Paris after leaving my family and friends for an unknown city. Having spent 18 months in France I have had my fair share of disappointments, frustration, sadness, happiness, and opportunities. Some of those opportunities include the jobs I have gotten over the course of this master.

For those of my colleagues that have been fortunate to find internships within and outside of France I say congratulations, and for those that will undergo the research, I wish you have a good time. As for me, my internship was approved at DHL since February and I was fortunate that my boss was willing to wait until I finish my studies. I actually obtained a summer job at DHL in July 2011 after the M1 and I worked full time for three months straight until the 30th of September. The job helped me to integrate into the French work culture and work life which is a little different from what I had been used to, and to ameliorate my level of French.

For international students like me, the idea of getting a summer job is a fantastic one as it enables you to gain your first work experience in a foreign country (even if it is not completely related to what you are studying), you get to earn some pocket money which always helps, and you get to put this experience on your cv.

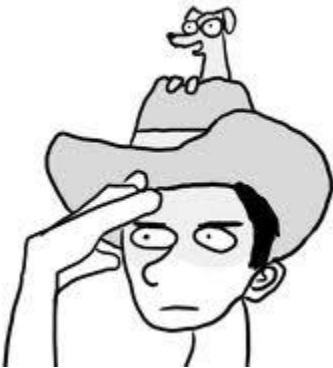
Summer in France offers a myriad of opportunities to students as not all companies close business for the holidays. It is very common however that a large number of staff do and will go on vacation and extra hands will be needed to ensure the company runs smoothly. Often times you find staff taking turns to go on holiday, so between the middle of June and the end of September companies hire students and part-time

workers.

I know from the experience of my colleagues that getting an internship and even a job can be a herculean task as you often get many rejections before you can obtain an interview. I had my fair share of negative responses in the first week of my search and I got very upset. Fortunately for me, I had been to a job fair earlier in the year and I made a few contacts. I sent my CV to some of those contacts, one of which happened to be looking for an English speaking person for a summer job. The emphasis here is that the job I got was never advertised.

Opportunities exist and abound, but we have to move around to get them, whereas the internet represents only about half of the job market. For those who will be interested in summer jobs, please consider going to forums, salons (les salons d'emploi), job fairs, and even job agencies, as this will help widen your reach.

As the M2 students move into the next phase of our master and the M1 prepare for their holidays I wish everyone a wonderful summer.



My Internship Experience

By Ladi TORTY, M22



My name is Ladi Torty, a master major in Sustainable development and Quality management.

I will start by saying that, searching for internship is not as easy most students think especially for the international students. When I started my studies in October 2012, searching for internship, was the least of my challenge. But up on resumption for the second semester in February, it suddenly became so clear that “Hey I’ve got to start the search for internship”



First, I started by checking out companies that has a link with my master and also doing business with my home country. Unfortunately, I could only find four French companies that have its branches in my country. I also had registered with other professional network like LinkedIn. I searched for recruiters in my field and I send my CV and motivation letter to the recruiters and companies.

However, I sent about seven CVs but I only got four invitations for interview. So, I would say, it is not about the number of CVs sent out but what company will accept and invite one for interview and if the job description really is inclined to the course.

I quite agree that we had a full year at ⁵ school especially with little free course days

I found a 6-month internship in Quality Health, Safety and Environment department in a good company. Today, I can only advise that it is safer to start searching for internship earlier. I didn't start early though but it was so difficult as well. I am having a good time at work seeing all that I had learnt in front of me. It actually didn't look like it was going to be possible at first, but it is!



I love calling her “Lady”, sounds like Lady Di. She was one of our students who experienced how hard it was to come to Paris through a difficult visa procedure. When a person at the French Embassy in Nigeria called me, she asked me a lot of questions on our program: schedule, content of all courses, tuition and so on. I am sure that Ladi had struggled herself too to obtain her entry visa to Paris. That’s why, she determines to be excellent!



My internship search at CNAM

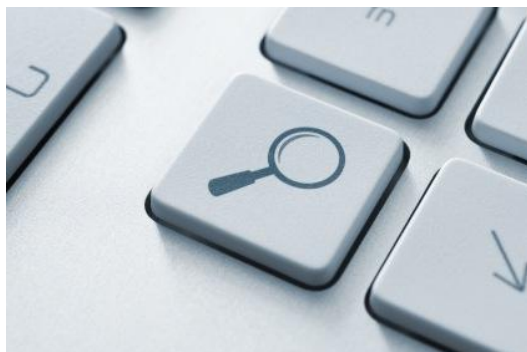


By Fabian ABERLE

It's July 2013, the Master2 program is over and I am waiting now until my internship is going to start. This is a quite good feeling.



... but during the search I didn't feel so well all the time, because of the uncertainty which was waiting for me. Well...Where should I start? There is a lot to tell. We students got an advice from the last year students and they told us: "Start searching early for an internship and do not only consider the big companies." I believed them... but the first thing I did was applying for the big companies - in Paris - like L'Oreal, P&G, etc. and of course I failed, as the competition in Paris is really high or maybe it was not the right time or the right position?!?! It is nice to try, but the change for a positive answer is not very high. So they either refused me or they even didn't answer.



So I remembered about the "Career Management" course... we can use LinkedIn.

Aha!!! So I suit the action to the word: I send friendship requests with a nice text to HR and department Managers of my target companies, but mainly the unemployed ones accepted my requests or employees, but not the important people who can decide to take interns. So this professional social network is a nice tool, but it didn't work for me.

After all these rejections I started to apply in my home country - Germany - and out of a sudden everything was so easy. I send 7 applications, got 3 interview invitations and finally 2 offers....yeah... my motivation was back :-) The main benefit was certainly, that Germany is my home country, so knowing the language, having a personal network and having a lot of cultural similarities with them helped definitely!

I also believe that this result reflects quite well the youth unemployment rate in Europe: In France it is 26% and in Germany it is only 7,5%.

Furthermore I did not need to deal with Visa things....which gave me a lot of time. I know that the Visa procedure can be exhausting, as a friend of mine told me that, if you go to the "Visa office" and they find a mistake or something is missing, they tell you to come back, but they do not tell you about all your mistakes or missing documents at the same time, so you might need to come back several times...anyway.

To come back to the internship search, CNAM can provide you with useful website addresses and some internship offers...so use them, but at the end you have to send the internship applications by yourself.

The most important thing at the end: Ideally you need to speak French, if you want to do an internship in France. I know it is easy to say, but difficult to do.

The only thing what I would have done differently is, that I would have started practicing French from the very first day and not just in the middle of the year. Maybe you will remember that and then you can find an internship in France like some of my classmates.

Good Luck to all of you!



I found in this picture, Fabian looks quite differently with another Fabian I used to see, no more formal, no more serious but still vivid. It seems to me that it would be nice to work with him.



AND

