Program: CEA Internship in Paris, France

Majors: Political Science and Communication

Earning the Career Development Badge:

Working full-time as an intern, I felt that I was able to learn what life in Paris was like better than I would have been able to if I was just attending class. I also got a feeling for what it’s like to work in another country, which makes the possibility that I will work abroad later in life much more likely.

As a reporter for the Global Editors Network, I spent most of my time researching, interviewing, writing, and editing for our online publication. I covered journalistic tools that our Editors Lab program had helped create, as well as important presentations from the GEN Summit. I also contributed to the editing of our weekly newsletter, recording Editors Lab participant feedback, and conducting audience research between our various publications.

Initially, I doubted my ability to contribute meaningfully to the Global Editors Network, fearing that I lacked the necessary expertise and skill to write worthwhile articles. I also questioned my editorial intuitions, which prevented me from presenting my ideas to my supervisors. This mentality began to change when I finished my first article, which received very positive feedback. It felt like I had established, at least in my own mind, my place in the office. From then on, Paris and my internship were no longer obstacles I had to overcome but instead opportunities that I got to enjoy.

Before this internship in Paris, I never considered that I would work or study outside the U.S. in my field. This internship abroad has changed that, and potential professional possibilities that before seemed unrealistic, now feel achievable. At the very least, I now know that there will be a lot more traveling in my future than I had ever imagined before my internship.

Transferable Skills:

While the specific skills that I learned navigating Paris and working at my internship have not been very applicable to my day-to-day life, the perspective that I gained while meeting new people and learning about their experiences has succeeded in reshaping my approach to interpersonal exchanges. I find myself, whether at work, school, or home, thinking about how my coworkers and friends in Paris may differ in my perspective on a topic that comes up. While I cannot be conclusive, this simple mental exercise has led me to be more thoughtful of how others have completely different lived experiences than me and not agreeing on something doesn’t have to be a bad thing.

“The skills and experiences I'd accumulated over the last three years at the U were finally put to test in a real-world setting and clarified where I had succeeded and where I needed to focus moving forward.”

Union, Room 159
801.581.5849
learningabroad@utah.edu