

Career Services Internship Testimonial



Michela Pavoncello
JCU Degree Seeking – International Affairs – graduation May 2011
Magna cum Laude 2011

Internship at the Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri – July to August 2010

My name is Michela and I am a senior at John Cabot University, majoring in International Affairs.

In May 2010, during John Cabot University's Career Fair, a week in which representatives of firms and governmental institutions come to JCU to present their organizations and interview students, I was interviewed and selected to work with the Italian Ministry of Public Affairs. I thus had an opportunity to do an internship within an Italian governmental institution.

I was assigned to work in the International Relations office of the Ministry of Public Affairs. This allowed me to observe from the inside how a department of the Italian government works, and specifically, in my case, how the department regulates Italian diplomatic relations with other European countries.

My task was to do research in the area of "administrative burdens on citizens" focusing specifically on how Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom deal with this issue. The topic of the project was stimulating and through my research I acquired information on the current issue of reducing administrative burdens on citizens, which I discovered to be a very relevant item on the European agenda. Through this internship, in addition to theoretical knowledge, I also gained practical knowledge on how to handle difficult situations, how to work under pressure and how to manage deadlines.

I had two months to complete my project. I thought that two months would have been a sufficient length of time to fulfill my task, but I soon realized that the length and complexity of the project would require much more work and time than I had expected. When I realized that two months might not be sufficient to complete my research and write 120 pages - I panicked. I spent the first week panicking and thinking of leaving the internship but then I decided to meet the challenge head on. So I started working under pressure five days a week six hours a day for four weeks. I was calm and focused; I started to believe in myself and in my work. I learned not to panic, to face difficulties and to work in an environment which was not as safe as at the university. I had to learn to live in the real world of work and - I made it.

Once I completed my tasks and handed in my work on time, I was satisfied with myself, but the satisfaction was not strictly for the work itself, but for the practical things that I learned and the self-confidence that I gained. I learned a lesson in life, on how the working-world functions and I am glad that I have had this experience now, so that when I enter the real world of work I will be prepared.

Michela Pavoncello

[Click here to read about more Career Services internships!](#)