

Instituto de Salud Carlos III
Alexander Casler

I spent the past semester working as an intern in the rare diseases division of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III de Madrid (ISCIII). I went 3 times a week for about 12 weeks throughout the semester. I had several different tasks throughout the course of my internship. First, my job was to learn about the Spain RDR project (an ongoing project at the ISCIII) and write a report on the purpose, methods, and goals of this project (in English). After writing the report, I reviewed it with my supervisor, and we submitted it to the director of the division of rare diseases to facilitate an understanding of the project by English speakers. I was then assigned to do research on a list of very rare diseases. My task was to find information related to these extremely uncommon illnesses and compile it. The ISCIII was trying to classify these diseases and so in my research it was especially important to try and find numerical codes for these illnesses from the newest edition of the International Classification of Diseases book (ICD-10). Overall, the experience of working in a Spanish organization absolutely helped develop my language skills. I was also able to get a sense of what the rare disease field is like and how well it fits my career interests.

Salud Por Derecho
Cooper Kersey

This past semester in Madrid I worked for Salud Por Derecho, a Public Health NGO. Salud Por Derecho is a very small organization so I worked on a variety of projects throughout the semester. My supervisor was the Advocacy Officer so my main job was to read news articles or recent reports that had to do with public health and summarize them for my supervisor so that she could use them for the organization's newsletter and blog. I researched AIDS, international aid for health issues in the developing world, and the recent health cuts to the Spanish health care system. At other times I would translate articles from Spanish to English and write my own articles for the blog. It was an extremely valuable experience for me because through all of the research I did I learned an incredible amount about the global health system and how an NGO like Salud Por Derecho works within this system. Due to the small size of the organization all of the office workers were extremely friendly which made coming to work every day much more enjoyable.

Salud Por Derecho
Cati Crawford

This semester I had the great fortune to work with a Spanish NGO called Salud Por Derecho. A political/public advocacy health group, their mission is to ensure the right to health for individuals living in impoverished countries. They achieve this goal through affecting political discourse, mobilizing community groups/members, and hosting informational events about their cause.

In the office, I mainly completed research on relevant topics/diseases, using the information I found to write up reports or fact sheets on that topic. I learned a TON about various diseases, funding sources, and the world of health policy in general. Apart from this work, I would also help out with other more random tasks. For example, I helped assemble "informational/advocacy boxes" for governmental, media, and other advocacy people/groups that support Salud Por Derecho

I have had a fantastic experience with this organization and I couldn't be happier with my decision to do an internship. My Spanish has improved tremendously, I made some of my closest friends in Spain while working at the office, and I learned a tremendous amount about public

health/working for an NGO. While the time commitment is quite large, I would highly recommend the internship experience to any student coming to Spain because I am of the opinion that what one learns outside of the classroom is far more valuable (and often, more interesting) than what one learns inside the classroom. Also, the final paper (though daunting at first!) is super interesting to write. I wrote about the evolution of homosexual rights in Spain and how it affects/relates to HIV/AIDS treatment within that population – probably the most interesting thing I learned (academically) throughout my entire time in Madrid.

Salud Por Derecho is a great place to work and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in public health!

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

Luke Elder

I did an internship at the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas with the Environmental Economics Group under Dr. Pablo Campos Palacín. I worked with a group of 7 others on a project involving the economic valuation of a forest in Andalucía. My primary task was translation from Spanish to English, mainly with one large theoretical document about environmental economic valuation. I learned a lot about how a research institution in Spain functions, I learned a lot of specific vocabulary that I would not have learned in a language class, and although translation can sometimes be a tedious and monotonous task, it improved my Spanish comprehension. While 16/20 hours a week is a lot to commit for only one class credit (along with an oral presentation, final paper, and meetings with EUSA), I think my internship experience with CSIC was worth it.

English Teaching Assistant, Rufino Blanco School – Primary School

Megan McGeehan

This past semester, I taught English at the preschool of Rufino Blanco in Madrid. I went once a week for ten weeks, and worked with the other English professor, Paz, to teach six classes of about thirty children each (two classes of 3 year olds, two of 4 year olds, and two of 5 year olds). Each class was an hour long and entirely in English. Before class, I prepared lesson plans for each age group based around the theme for that week. These plans included vocabulary, games, and short stories. I taught alone for three days, and alongside Paz for the rest of the time. It was a very fun experience and I learned a lot about the bilingual education system in Spain by observing the way Paz taught classes and how the other teachers viewed these classes. I also was able to practice my Spanish with the other teachers and other student helpers, who I ate lunch with every week, but overall the experience was not the most enriching from a Spanish language viewpoint. However, it was a great cultural experience and I would highly recommend it.

Fundación Deporte Joven

Emilio Medina

Last semester I worked in the Marketing and Publicity Department at Fundación Deporte Joven in Moncloa. Fundación Deporte Joven is part of the Consejo Superior de Deportes and works to organize and support sporting programs for youth throughout Spain. My main responsibility was to help FDJ switch from an outdated database to a new one. I helped fix several glitches and problems in their system. I also answered phones and logged client information into the database. While interning for FDJ I attended several meetings and even went to the Bernabeu for a contract signing. During my time in Madrid, I learned the most about Spanish culture working at my internship. Learning to use Spanish in a professional environment was one of the most rewarding

experiences of the internship. I don't have plans with working at a similar organization in the future, but being able to improve my language skills through my internship has given me the experience I need to use Spanish in my future career.

Kara Montbleau
International Venture Consultants

At IVC Consultants, I worked in the business development department over the course of 4 months. I was responsible for various projects in the field of market research, marketing campaigns, and development of start-up businesses. I also participated in company analysis, potential partners interviews for IVC's clients, and sales duties. As an International Politics and Economics major, this internship was very valuable in enhancing my curricular coursework. It fulfilled my curiosity of international business consulting and the structures and procedures involved. All of my work was conducted in Spanish, and I noticed a great improvement in my speaking ability. It was a challenge to adapt what I had learned in grammar classes to a professional setting, but the small business development team (4-5 people) provided me with a great deal of support. Each day my supervisor, Miguel Rodriguez, sent me an e-mail with clear expectations and project guidelines. At the conclusion of each week I was expected to hand in my work (powerpoints and research summaries).

Because IVC had a formal internship program in place, I felt that my work was taken seriously and held to a high standard. I liked that the job was very structured, and that I could interact with the two other interns. I was only expected to perform translation tasks on a few occasions, one being to restructure the company website, a project I volunteered to take on. For anyone interested in going into consulting, this internship provides a good reference point. At first, I was hoping to secure a job with one of the larger, US consulting firms. However, IVC turned out to be the right decision because I was able to work in a smaller team, receive real responsibility, and avoid translation. I would also recommend choosing two days that can be dedicated fully to the internship, rather than just working mornings or afternoons. Working two 8-hour workdays allowed me to really integrate with the team.

Elipse Iniciativas
Adria Staky

I interned at Elipse Iniciativas this semester, which is a sports marketing company that plans the Madrid Marathon. I was in charge of translating a wide variety of documents and creating several presentations. I was also involved in some communication between the company and their colleagues in the United States. I worked a lot during the week prior to the marathon, as well as the day of the event. Although I was not the only American student interning at Elipse, we spoke Spanish at all times. I would definitely say that my Spanish improved through interacting with the employees. Also, there were three other Spanish interns working with me, which was a great way to make friends. Overall the office was a very laid-back and fun work environment.

Daniel Crane
Federation of Alcoholics in the Community of Madrid

This past semester I completed an internship that consisted in self-help groups for alcoholics in Madrid. I attended nightly sessions and asked questions to the alcoholics about their condition and whether therapy was helping. In addition, I also prepared various tasks for my supervisor like assisting in a walking tour in Segovia for a meeting of recovering alcoholics. I also wrote a 16 page research paper on alcoholism, in which I incorporated the stories of recovering alcoholics

with the present research on alcoholism, and gave a 6 minute presentation in Spanish on the same subject. The process of researching and writing in Spanish, along with attending regular two hour group sessions, forced me to improve my Spanish. However, be warned that to listen to native Spanish speakers for two hours with no aid from teachers requires discipline, in particular when you start. Overall, my supervisor alone, a wise and extremely friendly man, improved the experience of the internship for me by assisting me in learning about Spanish and about alcoholism. I highly recommend this internship for those who want to learn more about alcoholism or drug therapy in general.

Stephanie Henderson
Colegio Público Agustín Rodríguez Sahagún

I worked at Agustín Rodríguez Sahagún, a bilingual elementary school in a very diverse neighborhood in Madrid. I assisted the English teacher, Gabriel with his class, which entailed going with him from class to class and facilitating English lessons. The English lessons were for young students (ages 4-8), so they were very basic lessons that focused on numbers, colors, animals, family members, etc. and utilized games, songs, and workbooks. I spent a lot of time observing how Gabriel ran his classes, which was a great learning experience, but I did not do a great deal of hands-on teaching. In addition, I wasn't allowed to speak in Spanish in front of the students, in order to push them to speak to me in English. This made communication with the students, who had a very basic comprehension level of English, difficult, and also meant that I was not able to practice my Spanish very much at my internship. Overall, I would say that this was a good experience, but not one that helped me with my Spanish while abroad. The people were very warm and welcoming and the school seems like an overall wonderful place to work.

Gen Guyol
Centro Dato

I interned at Centro Dato, an organization that provides a day program for adults with brain damage and cerebral palsy. I helped in the organization's goal of providing engaging and exciting activities for the residents while at the same time promoting independent lifestyles. In the mornings I worked in the occupational therapy and communication development departments. At lunchtime I helped some of the residents who needed assistance when eating. In the afternoons I talked with and provided companionship for the residents. Centro Dato is an exceptional organization that believes in its residents and helps them to live as independently as possible. It provides an excellent model of how to work effectively with adults with brain damage and cerebral palsy. This experience has enriched my knowledge of the medical field and has reinforced my desire to attend medical school. It also was instrumental in improving my Spanish because I spoke with and listened to the residents and professors at Centro Dato all day long.

Gabriella Brandt
Comisión para la investigación de malos tratos a mujeres

My responsibilities with CIMTM were to act as a written translator. As part of this position I was responsible for updating CIMTM's application for NGO Consultative Status with the UN. This application had been worked on by a number of different bilingual interns and had been submitted in 2004, but it was incomplete then so it wasn't reviewed. As part of this task I created a profile for CIMTM on the NGO portion of the UN website, I communicated with the NGO

branch of the UN when I had questions about the application, I translated all 7 pages of CIMTM's legal statutes into English, I uploaded and translated statutes, as well as examples of recent publications onto CIMTM's UN profile, and I updated parts of the application that needed to be updated as best as I could. In addition to this work for the application, I translated e-mail, meeting minutes, and surveys from the European Women's Lobby from English into Spanish, and often I would also translate the reply from Spanish into English.

Even though my work was translation work, through my parallel project, the presentation on the company, talking to Rosa, spending time at the center for abused women, and attending the March 8th International Women's Day Protest/Celebration I learned a lot about domestic violence in Spain, prostitution and sex trafficking in Europe, and women's organizations and activism in Spain.

Brandon Hawkins
Colegio Público Martina García

I was responsible for making lesson plans and then teaching about 5 different sections on the days that I worked. I worked on pronunciation in English as well as encouraging the children to feel comfortable speaking. I also met with the senior teachers to discuss games and activities to add to their lesson plans. I was allowed to teach classes on my own and the senior teachers were always in the class with me aiding me with the activities and my lesson plan. They gave me the opportunity to really be hands on and display that I was listening and learning from them.

I am really interested in education and the way in which children are deprived in the educational realm. It was wonderful to work with dedicated teachers that showed me with a little bit of determination and perseverance anything is possible. Also, I learned that children respond to what they are being taught in class; if they continue to hear that they are special and smart they will show it in their assignments and attitudes.

Hands down this was the best experience of my life. My students became my life and the strength I needed to continue in Spain at a time when I was really missing home. I really got close with the staff and I feel as if the whole community took me under their wing. Everyone was really nice, supportive, and helpful. I plan to continue a relationship with this school forever.

I would like to say to anyone interested in this internship to give your all and the return will be great. Leave any other distraction at the bus stop because when you enter the classroom you are a hero to your future students. Also, I traveled about one hour and a half to get to the school twice a week but the bus ride was really relaxing. The travel time allows you time to prepare your mind, heart, and soul for the students at Martina Garcia. Please contact me if you have any more questions: Brandon D. Hawkins bhawkins@middlebury.edu

John William Meyer
Colegio Público Príncipe de Asturias

This past semester I had an internship at a public grade school a little outside of Madrid. There I taught English classes two or three full days a week to students ages 6 to 12. I had a lot of freedom to develop curriculum and interact with the kids. At the school I ate lunch with the teachers every day where I improved my Spanish and made a lot of friends. To receive academic credit for the internship, I wrote a fifteen-page research paper. This was the first time that I actually enjoyed writing an academic paper. First off, I got to work with a Spanish professor who is an expert in the subject. For my project, I designed a survey and conducted a pilot study of how

well the school is meeting its goals. My internship was definitely the best part of my abroad experience. Through my internship, I learned a lot of Spanish, learned about a career in education and most importantly made lasting friendships with the kids and teachers.

Antoinette Rangel
Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol

One of the best ways I became acquainted with the ways of the Spanish was through my internship. I had the pleasure of working for the International Relations department of the PSOE (Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol). Interning for the party that is currently in power was awesome as I really got to know the intricacies of the political system from the people who knew it best. Because I helped do the research for various projects they were working on, I did things like tracing the progress of Middle East Peace Talks to helping translate the party's campaign manifesto for the upcoming elections. Aside from being educationally valuable, it was also where I met some of my best friends while in Spain, whom I still keep in touch with. These friends helped me integrate into and learn about Spanish culture, its norms, traditions, the different vocabulary and expressions they use, the best tapas bars, and so much more...and as they would always tease me, I learned that "Americans live to work, Spaniards work to live."

Andreea Coca
Fundación Mujeres

Aside from all the opportunities a capital city like Madrid has to offer, nothing in my experience there compared to having an internship at Fundación Mujeres (Women's Foundation), a Spanish ONG dedicated to improve the life conditions and experiences of women of all walks of life, across all social contexts. The two months I worked with the organization, where I was in charge of organizing and cataloguing the research materials used by my co-workers for workshops, conferences, reports (just to name a few of their involvements), as well as the materials Fundación Mujeres edited and/or published, not only offered me valuable insight into gender issues in the Spanish culture, but also knowledge about policies and programs designed to assure equal opportunities for men and women in the context of a bustling and heterogenic European metropolis within the European Union.

As a side project, I did independent research (using the documentation center which I was "remodeling") on sexism in the Spanish language, which proved a challenge on multiple levels, from having Spanish as a second language, to questioning whether the issue could be raised in other languages and cultures as well. Towards the end of my internship, I also started an "intercambio" with one of my co-workers, and having part of the staff sing me "Adiós con el corazón" my last day of work definitely made me promise to come back and see them soon.

Ben Kleinman
Proyecto Solidario

During my second semester in Spain I worked for a NGO in Madrid called Proyecto Solidario. The goal of the organization is to aid improvised children in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, and Morocco. I specifically worked in the department focused on improving education in Morocco. Proyecto Solidario has several projects in the region, all of which entail building and remodeling elementary schools in the rural areas of the country.

My job was to prepare research papers on the current education system in Morocco, provide an analysis of the situation, and summarize the programs that Proyecto Solidario is undergoing to help aid the country. I would then present my findings to the president and founder of the NGO. In addition to the formal presentations, I met with the president every week to discuss the progress of my reports. I would also frequently speak to other staff members working on the education projects in Morocco.

This internship was absolutely phenomenal for my Spanish. Unlike other internships where the work is primarily filing, during this internship I was doing research, writing extensive papers, and presenting my findings to the president of the organization. In short, I was reading, writing, and talking in Spanish everyday, and the result was that my Spanish improved substantially. I also gained a greater understanding of Spanish culture; specifically the education system in Spain, as well as how a Spanish NGO operates. I would certainly recommend this internship as you will both learn a tremendous amount about Spanish culture and dramatically improve your language abilities.

Harry Leshner
Commercial Cards Department, American Express

I had to create client account review presentations. I also did general administrative work such as filing and checking to see if supplier invoices had been received. I also was responsible for training the new intern, who was from Madrid when he arrived. I greatly improved my Spanish during the course of this internship and I also learned a lot about the company.

Scott Kessler
[Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente](#)

I translated various works from Spanish to English and vice versa while also reviewing various works the Institute was publishing in English. My Spanish increased drastically. I also was able to see how an environmental NGO specializing in environmental law functions and if I would like to pursue a career in that area.

Alexandra Coleman
Hombre y Tierra

(NGO that provides assistance and advising to immigrants on employment opportunities, permits, residency procedures, etc.)

I was responsible for answering phones, logging in client data, (money owed, new client info., etc.) greeting clients and if needed I managed the front desk and would write receipts and write in new members (small interviews to help them fill out a questionnaire.) I'm not particularly interested in working for an NGO or in legal work, however it helped me with my language skills and certainly gave me valuable experience for a possible thesis in the future.

Lana Coryell
Colegio Reinado Corazón de Jesús(Private K-12 school)

I was responsible for creating a lesson plan and teaching an hour-long lesson each week about American culture/English for each of the 4th-6th grades of the elementary school, 1st-4th years of

the ESO grades and both years of Bachillerato. I also observed and helped out in the 5 year old class and the 3rd grade in the elementary school.

I think I achieved mostly all of my goals, although I wish my speaking skills would have improved more. I didn't really receive training, but the teachers were always available if I had any questions and offered suggestions to improve my work. In the middle and high school, the teachers supervised my classes. In the elementary school, I worked on my own. I am seriously considering becoming a teacher and so the practical experience was very, very helpful. I now know what it feels like to teach a class of 25 kids of various grade levels on my own.

This was the most valuable experience of all of my experiences in Spain. It helped me to practice my Spanish with native speakers and I also made a lot of connections in the community. It was also helpful because it gave me teaching experience that might be very useful in a future career.

Cristina Cerrato
Animatic Producciones

During my fall 2006 semester in Madrid, Spain I interned at Animatic Producciones, a company that specializes in event production, specifically: themed parties, elegant dinners, circuses, concerts, plays and more. Since Animatic has only four full-time staff members, I was easily able to incorporate myself in the office and was quickly put to work with a variety of tasks. Most of my major responsibilities had to do with technology; I was responsible for teaching first, myself, and, later, my co-workers to use Adobe Photoshop CS and ImageReady CS in order to create a program that automatically batch watermarked the thousands of images that Animatic uses in its project proposals to new clients. In addition, I helped in the creation of the aforementioned project proposals and, in the process, often got to have my input and suggestions taken into consideration. Other times, my assignments were a bit more dynamic; I was sent to a local theater where I personally handed out 200 flyers announcing an upcoming casting hosted by Animatic. I also accompanied my coworkers as they shopped for supplies for our events—makeup, wigs, costumes and other accessories—and, I was there behind the scenes as the props were put to use and we turned the ideas from our project proposals into reality. In sum, I feel that working with Animatic was both a linguistically and a socially positive experience through which I learned many practical skills related to technology as well as gained important insight on Spanish business and culture.

Stephanie Kane
Guatemalan Embassy - Spring 2006

Interning at the Guatemalan Embassy was one of the most rewarding experiences of my academic year in Spain. It was an opportunity that allowed me to continue to better my Spanish as I learned about the inner workings of an Embassy. Moreover, due to the smaller size of the Embassy, I was able to get to know everyone in the office and reap the benefits of its family-like environment. When the President of Guatemala was in Spain on official business, the ambassador nonchalantly introduced me to President Oscar Berger as the “tap dance queen” from New York!

As an intern in the Office of Commerce, my principal responsibilities were focused on helping promote and facilitate commerce between Guatemala and Spain. When a company would contact us requesting the contact information regarding Spanish or Guatemalan exporters and/or importers, it was my responsibility to research and collect all relevant data. Then, on behalf of the Office of Commerce, I would provide the company with the requested information. My other

responsibilities included maintaining a database of Guatemalan and Spanish business contacts and translating English documentation. However, perhaps it was at the international trade show IMEX '06 where I was first able to recognize the importance of my internship. Throughout the day we had several scheduled appointments with companies interested in investing in Guatemala and when the *Councilor* needed to attend a meeting with the ambassador, I was asked to conduct the next to appointments by myself! The experience I gained at my internship is remarkable, and I recommend all students studying in Madrid to seriously consider an internship because it is certainly worth the time and effort!

Iulia Sprinceana

[Ashoka Emprendedores Sociales](#) - Spring 2006

Working with a Spanish NGO was far from what I had in mind when I headed for my study abroad year with the Carlos III University in Madrid. As a double Economics/Spanish major, I had hoped to intern with a bank or financial organization, perhaps even a cultural institution such as an Embassy. In the end, it turned out that I found myself more comfortable within the Ashoka family. This is exactly what we were: Ashoka is more than a simple NGO-it was founded in the 1980s by Bill Drayton, an American, and over time has spread all over the world. The Spanish branch is therefore coordinated and cooperates with its counterparts in Latin America, the US, India etc. It is a wonderful environment! One gets to do office work, to organize the files and folders, to bring his/her own ideas, to design new templates for the storage of all the information they possess, to do reasearch on new candidates for the yearly Ashoka fellowship, any to work with an extraordinary staff that will consider the intern as a fully mature and responsible individual.

Seth Miran

El Colegio Público El Trigal - Spring 2006

My internship was at El Colegio Público El Trigal in Fuenlabrada (on the outskirts of Madrid). I went to the elementary school two full days every week. My duties were to help 3 teachers in classes (primarily English classes, but a number of regular Spanish classes – for example, math and reading and writing) for kids as young as pre-school and as old as 6th grade. They gave me my own lessons to prepare as well as helping them throughout the classroom while they were giving lessons. Additionally, I worked with some of the kids who needed extra attention in classes.

The internship was easily the best part of my semester in Madrid. The interaction that I had with Spaniards and the relationships that I cultivated, with both the children and the teachers, are those intangible and unquantifiable portions of my experience abroad that will stick with me the longest. It was also the most direct reason that I saw a marked improvement in my Spanish, particularly my speaking ability. During my last week, I got to go on a field trip with the first and second graders and all of the teachers with whom I was closest, an experience which reminded me not only of how much I had grown in Spain, but also since elementary school (since I can still remember being the chaperoned as opposed to the chaperone).

Haley Gilbert

Elipse Iniciativas - Spring 2006

I worked as an intern at Elipse Iniciativas, a company that coordinates sports and special

events. Mainly, I worked in collaboration with the sports events manager to organize the 29th marathon of Madrid. At first, I helped my supervisor map out the new marathon course, helping her with her powerpoint presentations of the new course. Then, she had me type many spreadsheets and put together packets for the head volunteers of the marathon. I did inventories of the medical supplies needed at every rest stop throughout the marathon, and put together team clothing for the head volunteers. I also was the only one who spoke English, so I was responsible for all English-Spanish translation that was needed, mainly with the English-speaking collaborators of the marathon. The experience was particularly great because I worked in an environment where I really improved my Spanish. By spending all of our two-hour breaks with the other employees, I improved my conversational skills and vocabulary. It was great to learn the vocabulary that a business uses, as well as the colloquial vocabulary that Spanish people use. I would highly suggest this internship! I got to go to the Gala that presented the marathon to the sporting community of Madrid, as well as participate as a key figure the day of and the day before the marathon. I interviewed the female and male champions of the marathon for Elipse's post-race magazine, and had many responsibilities the day of the marathon at the finish line.

Brad Hartman
OM Sports - Spring 2005

During my semester in Madrid, I did an internship at a sports marketing company called OM Sports: The Sports and Marketing Company. Basically, OM Sports organizes 4 large sporting events in Spain & Portugal throughout the year--one polo event, 2 golf events, and a pádel event. My primary responsibility was to translate the company's information and publicity pamphlets from Spanish to English. Although the work was not thrilling, having the opportunity to interact with native Spaniards in a business environment was worthwhile. I also learned a little bit about what it takes to organize a large-scale

sporting event. Furthermore, just by being in the office I began to pick up on Spanish business vocabulary and professional behavior. The most valuable part of the experience was speaking with my officemates and practicing my Spanish with native Spaniards. It was also interesting to get some exposure to sports that are not common in the United States (like polo and pádel)!