

**Kennedy Kearney-Fischer**  
**Dirección General de Asuntos Europeos y Cooperación con el Estado**

During the Spring semester of 2009, I did an internship at a department of the Community of Madrid's Office of the Vice President, which has two purposes: administrating Madrid's relations with other parts of Europe, and facilitating cooperation between the Community and the federal government. This job was perfect for me, since I'm an International Relations major. I worked there two days a week, in a shared office that allowed me to talk a lot with other employees and practice my Spanish.

My work consisted of a lot of translation: contracts, reports, letters, speeches and other documents from Spanish to English, including a speech that the Director General himself gave in English to representatives of the EU. I also studied documents from international organizations that operate in English, and wrote corresponding reports and summaries in Spanish to help the director and sub-directors understand them. I got to observe and participate in meetings with various representatives from the Community of Madrid, the Spanish government, and other European countries.

This internship made a huge difference in my spoken Spanish skills, and also helped me improve a lot as a translator, especially in the field of International Relations.

**Ben Cotton**  
**Colegio La Salle San Rafael**

I was responsible for organizing, along with my supervisors, English lessons in class as well as coordinating and leading the games that we played in large groups. With the younger students I was often responsible for leading small groups in reading comprehension and vocabulary memorization. For the older students, I mainly ended up leading small group discussions in the library so they could practice the English they learned in the classroom in a more comfortable and natural speaking environment.

Having this experience certainly gave me a new perspective on education. What I really wanted to get out of this internship was a better idea of what it is like to be a teacher as well as a mentor. The relationships I established with the students and the staff gave me a real sense of community and purpose. I think to a certain degree I feel proud with having given the kids a new perspective on learning the language and being an American in Spain.

**Alex Graves**  
**Instituto de Educación Secundaria Laguna de Joatzel**

This semester I interned at a bilingual secondary education institute near the Carlos III University in Getafe. It was a great opportunity to try out teaching – something I've always been interested in and never had the chance to do. I collaborated with teachers on lesson plans and activities and also presented the material through lectures and group work. It was a fantastic opportunity to see what teaching was really like: through working with professors and students I created and presented lesson plans, held conversation classes with women my age, and tested the younger students on my subject (I taught

biology in English). The staff at the institute was my favorite part; they were some of the nicest most helpful people I've worked with and they made the experience a blast. I got to practice my Spanish with them and the kids (when not in class) but I do wish there had been more Spanish spoken at the institute (most profs are bilingual and thus automatically spoke to me in English...I had to insist on Spanish quite often). This was a great opportunity to see what the field of teaching was like, and now I have a better sense of how I deal with being a teacher and if it's the right thing for me. To anyone interested in working with kids or the field of teaching, I would HIGHLY recommend this institute, it was a fantastic experience.

### **SARAH ASHBY**

#### **Organización Iberoamericana de la Juventud**

During my semester in Madrid I participated in a non-credit bearing internship with La Organización Iberoamericana de la Juventud (OIJ). I would say without hesitation that this internship was one of the most valuable, enjoyable activities that I involved myself in while studying in Spain. I worked an average of ten hours per week in the central office of the organization, which is located right in the heart of the city, a short walk away from the Sede Prim. The OIJ is an intergovernmental organization that works to coordinate and promote youth-friendly policies, activities, and initiatives among various Latin American countries, Spain, and Portugal. They have recently published a land-mark document, the first and only such document in existence, in fact, calling for the recognition and protection of youth rights in the member countries. Much of the work that I did for the OIJ involved Portuguese-Spanish translation, as the office needed someone to translate communications for Portugal and Brazil. I additionally researched and wrote a report on the troubles facing young migrants in Latin America, which was eventually to be used in an intergovernmental summit about youth migration. My final task at the OIJ was to compile a spreadsheet of international grants and funds available to the organization. Through my internship I was able to meet and befriend Spaniards, and use Spanish in a professional setting.

### **Hallie Ritzu (graduate)**

#### **Fundación Santa María La Real**

La Fundacion Santa Maria la Real is a non-profit organization founded by Jose Maria Perez "Peridis," a renowned Spanish architect and artist who publishes his daily political cartoon in the newspaper El Pais. The headquarters of the Foundation is in Aguilar del Campoo in the North of Spain and the Madrid office is responsible for sales and publications. A large part of Foundation's work has to do with the restoration and documentation of Romanesque Art and Architecture in Spain. An internship with the Fundación requires the ability to work independently on tasks such as translation and making contacts to various businesses and organizations both in Europe and abroad, mostly in connection with publications such as the Encyclopedia of the Romanesque in Spain. The internship also includes a trip to the headquarters in Palencia. The schedule is very flexible and is established in accordance with the student's academic schedule. It is a

great internship for someone with an interest in sales, translation, Art History and just general knowledge about relations within a professional office setting in Spain.

**MOLLY KNOLL**

**[Ashoka Emprendedores Sociales](#)**

I researched possible Ashoka candidates on the internet and newspaper articles and filled out a summary of their strengths and weaknesses. Also handled other various office tasks.

I think my speed in understanding spoken and written Spanish improved quite a bit. I learned a lot about assigning myself goals for the day and working independently.