

My Internship Experience

By Hangwei Li

When I heard about the internship opportunities at the United Nations Information Center for Masters Students like myself, I thought that this was an excellent fit with my background.



Hangwei

Acquiring not only an internship position, but one at such a prominent organization, was extremely exciting. My 2-month internship at UNIC Accra was one of the best experiences I could have asked for. Every morning when I walked in the office door, many big smiles and warm greetings were there waiting for me. My colleagues are also very hospitable and helpful. I really enjoyed the pleasant ambience of the office.

I did not only enjoy working with my fellow colleagues, but also cherished the opportunity of working with my supervisor. I started my internship on June 17. I met my supervisor who is really fantastic. She had created a motivating list of tasks and assignments that I would complete during the internship. These included monitoring of the Ghanaian media and coordination during UNIC events, undertaking research on topical issues, drafting concept notes/proposals on UNIC Accra planned activities, assisting in managing the UNIC library and preparing information packages for a range of stakeholders on various topics. I carried out all these tasks under the guidance of my supervisor. She is very professional and inspiring, and I must agree that she made me to learn a lot.



Hangwei with group of students after teaching mandarin Chinese at a Nelson Mandela Day 2012 event

My most memorable experience was when UNIC Accra supported UNESCO in terms of communications and media coordination for the visiting UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova. At that time, my main task was coordinating the media when Ms Bokova visited Cape Coast to hold a number of meetings with officials within the municipality. As a journalism graduate student, this valuable experience not only helped me gain more knowledge about Ghana, but also gave me a better understanding of African journalists' daily work.

Looking back now, I do think living and working in Ghana was an outstanding life experience, a unique chance to immerse in a different culture. It was also an important cultural experience which convinced me once more how important Africa (particularly Ghana) will be in the future. After I left Ghana, I published many articles about Africa in both Chinese and English.

Having a demanding and challenging internship with UNIC Accra was like a dream come true. I love the feeling of making a difference; I enjoy the excitement of being challenged, being forced to go all out for a demanding future. I feel grateful and honored to be chosen to participate in such once in a life time opportunity with a organization such as the UNIC Accra. Therefore, it goes without saying, I strongly recommend UNIC Accra to other students with an interest in international relations and international communications. It's an experience that I would repeat without hesitation, given the chance.

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