

Internship in Japan: brief commentary

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As a constitutive part of the LA-CEP Program, **“A co-creative education program of humanities and sciences to solve global issues confronting Japan and Latin-America”**, we have been invited to participate in a ten-days internship through which improving our skills as Latin-American exchange students living in Japan. The internship programme has broadened my knowledge base, which was made possible through my participation in the various activities organised by the different institutions in which I did my internship and especially my interaction with other workers.

Being able to get involved into real business, governmental agencies, cultural centres and even start-up companies or educative institutions offered us not only the opportunity to experience by ourselves how the job system works in Japan, but a great chance to understand more about Japanese society.

I think that that was the most valuable point concerning the entire internship process: to see the inside of the institutions in which I had the pleasure to partake and discover, with great amazement, the human warmth and countless predisposition to the integration and collaboration.

In my personal case, the internship had place in three different places; having had diverse tasks, social environment and methodology of work, this experience has been highly enriching and thrilling. By doing so, I could thrive by blending my formal education within major and Japanese studies, and also collecting experiences through this internship with critical self-assessment and precise assistance of my temporary co-workers and managers.

These experiences permitted me to know how to become an effective employee and enabled me to explain the positive attitude and behaviour that should be followed in the workplace; that was an especially important lesson to learn taking into account cultural differences and manners. It also allowed me to assess my own effectiveness, identify the skills needed to improve it, and to set a plan for personal development. At the same time, it allowed me to recognize some points that I would like to keep working on, such as language skills and resourceful reaction to confront unexpected situations or spontaneous meetings.

That is why I consider that this internship allowed me to learn new skills and even enhance my personal skills. For me, these achievements are the direct result of the effort invested in me by the LA-CEP Program together with the institutions where the internship took place.

Sengawa Theater



Choufu City Hall



Tsutsujigaoka Children's Day Care Center



I think that this internship has offered me a great opportunity to grow and develop. It has propelled me to be able to overcome challenges, and enjoy the workshop atmosphere as well. I learnt extensively about Japanese society, work system and I was able to immerse myself in enriching cultural aspects. The program has also enhanced my critical thinking and analytical skills as well as improved my professional ability to work in a multicultural environment.

Working as an intern in Japan was a real honour and privilege to me. I am very appreciative of this opportunity and grateful to everyone who made it possible, for giving the opportunity to work as an intern but also enabled me to improve my Japanese, and share memorable times in company of Japanese people –this I believe epitomized my internship experience.