

My Internship 2012

In the following I would like to write about my internship and about the experiences which I have made in America. In the period from the 30th of July to 24th of August I worked as a Front Desk Coordinator in a physical therapy practice, located in America's state Illinois, Chicago. I actually stayed in the United States for two months, four weeks for vacation and four weeks for doing my internship.

– But why have I selected the US? –

I think it's a very good opportunity to make the experience of working abroad. It helps you to learn how to manage living in a foreign country full of strange people. Moreover you have a better possibility to improve your English skills. Hearing the voices of English-speaking people 24/7 even let me dream in English! However, back to my internship.

My first day was very exciting. The staff showed me their practice and told some things I should know about the daily routine there. The first week they gave me some simple paperwork. By and by I got bigger tasks like typing letters, welcoming and assisting patients. One day Dr. Abraham, the physical therapist I worked for, explained to me how he wanted me to type his new registration forms. So I designed a new layout for them. A few days later he instructed me to create a map with driving directions for patients who drive by car or by bus. I also took telephone calls. I just noticed that everything we learned at school was very helpful, for example I had to say exactly those phrases on the phone we had practiced at school. Another more interesting task was to see how they deal with marketing. Me and another colleague named Paul went to every high school, college and university in Elgin (a place in Chicago). Dr. Abraham sponsors the shirts of soccer and football teams. He had printed the name and address of his practice on the back of the shirts. Our task was to talk to the principal and to keep him up to date.

So, to conclude my report, I have to say that I really loved the experience of working in another country. Although it's really different to stay among people you don't know, especially if they don't speak your language. There was nobody I could talk to. No Germans, no translator. Honestly, I was very afraid of doing mistakes, particularly because of my boss. I didn't want to ruin his business by doing something wrong. But I have to say that the team was very nice. They respected that I was German and they treated me very well, what I truly appreciated. Furthermore, a foreign certificate will be very impressive if I want to apply for a job or at a university.

– And this is why I have chosen America as a destination for my internship –