

Dear ParisTech Arts & Metiers,

I hereby, _____, give my full authorization to publish the content of this letter on your website in recognition of the financial support that you have provided me with.

Full Name:

Date:

Signature:

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1. Name of student, background, professional aspirations (1 paragraph, 5 lines)
 2. Please tell us how you were able to get your internship, and the date and length of your stay (1 paragraph, 5 lines)
 3. Please tell us the company or university where you interned and the objective of your internship (1 paragraph, 10 lines), and why you were excited to work there. (1 paragraph, 10 lines)
 4. Please tell us how you used the funds provided by American Friends of Arts et Metiers (1 paragraph, 5 lines)
 5. Please summarize your internship, how you achieved the company/university's objectives (1 paragraph, 5 lines), as well as your own personal goals and lessons from this experience (1 paragraph, 5 lines), and finally how this impacted your professional aspirations (1 paragraph, 5 lines).

1. My name is Charles Salengros. I am a 23 years old student at Arts et Métiers ParisTech where I study mechanics, materials science, process engineering, fluids mechanics and power systems. In the course of my studies, I have also done another internship, within the Research and Development department of a French company: DS Dynatec. After graduation, I would like to be a civil engineer or an aerospace engineer. In particular, I would enjoy the opportunity to work abroad.
2. During summer vacations, I spend time as a boat instructor. Three years ago, I helped a motor boat importer for a demonstration of his products and we exchanged our contact information. Last year, while I was looking for my internship, he was able to get me in touch with his cousin who is the VP of a civil engineering company. After several telephone interviews, he offered me a thirteen weeks internship from 06/15/09 till 09/11/09.
3. The name of the firm I worked for is "TMAD Taylor & Gaines": they are a civil engineering consulting company located in Pasadena (California). During my internship I served as an assistant engineer in the mechanical department planning the installation of Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning systems (called HVAC systems). The main objective of my internship was to provide some relief to the engineers who are often overwhelmed with work during the summer season. Among my tasks, I was to perform computational simulations with a HVAC software called Trace 700 so as to determine which HVAC unit was best suited for the building. Then I was to prepare an industrial drawing of these units and the corresponding air circuit using CAD software (AutoCAD). I also had to measure the ecological performance of the building design and find ways to improve it, in order to qualify for some ecological labels delivered by the USGBC.

The first reason why I was so excited to work there is because the company is a civil engineering company and that perfectly matched the area of my interests, so it was a good opportunity for me to improve my skills. In addition to that, I learned that TMAD Taylor & Gaines is a deemed Californian company which already designed major buildings (for instance LAX airport) so I reckon this will prove to be a valuable reference on my CV. Moreover I found working in a foreign country to be very exciting as you have the chance to meet and exchange with people with a different mentality and cultural

background. Before this internship some friends had advised me that the best way to understand the American way of life was to go there and work for few months: this is why I have been looking for an internship in the USA. Moreover I was sure that this experience would be a wonderful one which could help me to work abroad later.

4. The funds provided by American Friends of Arts et Metiers will be used to attend a two weeks class about building's safety in Saint Petersburg. Thanks to an association called BEST (Board of European Students of Technology), I have the opportunity to attend several conferences held in various places all over Europe twice a year. I really would like to take part in this particular event as the main topic will be about securing buildings which is an argument directly related to my career objective.
5. My goal in the company was to assist the engineers of the Mechanical Department with their forecasts of HVAC needs for new buildings. At the beginning I had to face some challenges as I was asked to work with software I had never used before and in addition I had very little experience with civil engineering. However, with some advices from my colleagues and a lot of dedication, I quickly acquired the knowledge needed to achieve the tasks I had been entrusted with.

I was very satisfied with my internship because I learnt a lot about the American attitude towards work (relaxed and very efficient altogether) and the life in a foreign company (organization, services, situations, projects...). In addition I improved my skills in many fields (knowledge in Civil engineering, new CAD software, English and Spanish languages...). All in all, the most important lesson I will remember is that, in USA, if you are resourceful and hardworking you can go very far.

To conclude, I believe my internship has reinforced my plan to work in civil engineering and this experience in a consulting company gave me new ideas for what could be a career shift, maybe in few years. Last but not at least, this internship allowed me to ascertain my interest in international work and now I know definitively that my place is in a foreign country, which is all for the best as my boss told me that I could return working at TMAD Taylor & Gaines once I graduate.