

Dear ParisTech Arts & Métiers,

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

Full Name: Frédéric AUBOURG

Date: 01/20/2010

Signature: 

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1. Name of student, background, professional aspirations (1 paragraph, 5 lines)

My name is Frédéric AUBOURG, I am French and 22 years old. As soon as I got my diploma from high school I studied for 2 years in a preparatory school in order to enter an engineering school. Then I entered the engineering school called Arts&Métiers in Aix en Provence, France. The degree that I've been working on for now 2 years (1 left) is a both a mechanical and industrial degree which opens doors for the whole world of the industry. I am currently specializing in Lean Manufacturing.

2. Please tell us how you were able to get your internship, and the date and length of your stay (1 paragraph, 5 lines)

I started to look for this internship in November 2008 namely 9 months prior my internship. After updating my resume I started to go to conferences where I knew I could talk directly to important people of the biggest companies. In February I met the number 2 of Eurocopter during a conference. Then he gave me the contact of the human resources of American Eurocopter located in Dallas, Texas in the USA. That was the company I was looking forward to working for. After several calls I finally got a position there where I spent 7 months from July 09 until January 10.

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)

Like I said right above I worked for American Eurocopter for 7 months. It is a helicopter maker manufacturing aircrafts for the American market (both civil and military market). When I first received the objectives of my internship they said I was going to perform 5S audits, FOD inspections and they also insisted on the fact that the company is extremely focused on what we call "the Lean". Indeed the new methodology coming from Toyota is a new state of mind based on eliminating wastes from over production to communicating. I had the chance to be trained for 1 week off-site in order to be certified Green Belt. Then a 6 month project needs to be completed in order to approve the certification. I also helped a lot of shops improve by using Lean tools. Most of the shops have been 5S'ed already. Now it is our duty to help them sustain it by performing a 5S audit every 2 weeks. I was also part of a project about doubling the capacity of the paint shop (by using Value Stream tools for example). I was really excited to work there not only thanks to all the Lean manufacturing but also because the products we make are really high quality and they make me dream.

4. Please tell us how you used the funds provided by American Friends of Arts et Métiers (1 paragraph, 5 lines)

Even though internships are often really interesting and are one of the best ways to lean, they remain very expensive. Indeed working in the USA is allowed only with a working visa, which is very expensive for a student. As the company doesn't assume anything but a monthly income, I also had to pay for a return ticket to the USA which is a pretty big amount. The funds provided by American Friends of Arts et Métiers are and will be a considerable help.

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).

It took me at least 1 month to be familiar with the company. During this first month I took part of several projects more or less advanced and started to attend meetings. I had the same follow-up meetings every week which was the best way to keep people informed on a specific project and to be updated at the same time. We had new objectives every day which were a new mission for us every time. Having objectives is the best way to move forward and keep working toward the right direction.

I had 2 different goals that I was looking forward to achieving though this internship. First I wanted to have a great experience of the world of work by being part of important projects. I wanted to have responsibilities and a real impact in the company. I also wanted to make a lot of progress as far as speaking English. Learning new words and new expressions were not only my goals. I also wanted being able to speak faster with a better accent. Now that my internship is done I can say that I succeed by getting both of these objectives done.

This internship opened my eyes as far as the Lean spirit. I realized how much any company can evolve and change just by doing simple things and how much money they can save. So I decided to focus my career on this new methodology in order to keep helping companies increase their margins just by doing simple things. The other good point of the Lean manufacturing is that it can be implemented in any company and on every market: industry, marketing, health,...