

Dear ParisTech Arts & Metiers,

I hereby, _____, 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:

Date:

Signature:

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

I am Quentin LEGRAND, student in third year of engineering school at Arts et Métiers ParisTech. Five years ago, I began my engineering curriculum with preparatory classes in Lycée Clémenceau, Nantes. After 2 years, I passed the exam of Arts et Métiers. I did my first two years in the school of Arts et Métiers in Angers and started my last year in Paris. As I like mechanics and industrial companies, I would like to work in the maintenance. I will apply for the master of Management of the maintenance in Arts et Métiers for the next year.

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 contacted an acquaintance of my parents who works in the company. Through him, I was able to send my application for an internship in the engineering field. The manager of the unit in which I worked, agreed to give me the opportunity of working in the USA. My internship began Monday, June 20th 2009 and lasted 3 months. I left the USA Saturday, September 19th 2009 after my last week of internship.

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)

My internship took place in Polycor, Tate, Georgia. Polycor is a Canadian firm which owns quarry of marble and granite in Canada and in the USA. The Tate's unit works a quarry of marble and mostly designs soldier's graves and pavement for lodgings. The business unit is small and really busy, that's why I had different missions to do. The first concerned the installation of a device to measure the thickness of marble slabs. The goal was to include the digital thickness in the database of Polycor's slabs. This will allow the salesmen to choose slabs for a specific client and to control the working of the machine. The second mission was to design a machine to cut wrong graves to do new piece of pavement. It could permit to save money with the transformation of garbage into saleable stones. My last job was to find a solution to improve the management of stocks which were freely supplied with non-fixed prices.

I was excited to work there for many reasons. First of all, I like to do fieldwork and all these missions gave me the opportunity to work with many people and really close of the production. I am not especially interesting in marble but factories have similar issues and common means to fix them. Then, I also wanted to learn the language, the way of living and working in the USA. During these 3 months, I was pleasantly surprised because the factory is a mix of different people: there are American, Canadian and French employees in the office and American workers. All this team succeeds to do a good job which is not easy compared with the economical situation. The last exciting aspect was the location of the quarry. Tate is a small city near the beginning of the Appalachian Mountains but to one hour of Atlanta. People in north Georgia are very friendly and the area is wonderful.

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

I must say that the major part of the spending was done before the trip. The most important cost for me was the visa with the sponsor Parenthèse and the embassy. I also bought the round-trip Paris-Atlanta flight. In the USA, I had to buy my food and my personal spending. The company found an accommodation for me and gave the means to move.

American Friends of Arts & Metiers ParisTech
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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).

I think the internship was a success even if I could have done more with more time. Concerning the measurement device, I chose a laser sensor, found the best supplier (price and quality), configured it and programmed to get the value on a computer. For the sawing machine, I worked with the supervisor of maintenance. With his help, I bought a conveyor to move the stones and found a hydraulic system to run the blades but there is still some work to do to achieve this project. Finally, I did an inventory of maintenance parts and created a small database to improve the management of the inventory.

Concerning my personal goals, I can say that I didn't forgive something because of the language even if sometimes I had difficulties. It shows me that differences of culture could have a huge impact on an international project. It was also the first time I worked with all the grades from worker to chief manager. It was really interesting to be between different opinions for some missions and to have to deal with this. It teaches me how to speak to every employees and how to try conciliating them.

This internship confirmed my strong interest for maintenance. I liked to understand the working of different machines and how we can modify it to improve its output. Even if I wasn't implicated I also saw the management of the maintenance team and it was really interesting. Finally, this was my first internship abroad and it convinced me to work in a foreign country if I have the occasion. Moreover, this experience encouraged me to work in the USA, because I saw people motivated by their job and a real freedom of initiative.