

Dear ParisTech Arts & Metiers,

I hereby, Vaéa ZENGER, 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: Vaéa ZENGER

Date: 01/25/2010

Signature: Vaéa Zenger

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

My name is Vaéa Zenger. I obtained a scientific baccalaureat in 2004 and after three years in preparatory classes, I have got into Art et Métiers ParisTech in 2007. In 2008, I had the opportunity to work 3 months for Airbus as a records technician in luxury aircraft completion. This experience has been the beginning of my interest in aeronautics. I performed a six-month internship in Arkansas from June to December 2009 in Dassault Falcon Jet, a subsidiary of Dassault Aviation. After my graduation I would like to work as an aeronautical engineer abroad, hopefully in the United States.

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

In 2008, Arts et Métiers created the new program P2I that gives the second year students the possibility to postpone the third year and to perform a six-month internship abroad. It is a great opportunity to discover another culture, learn or improve a language and to have a valuable experience. I was interested in the United States in particular and, one year in advance, I apply for a six-month internship in Dassault Falcon Jet starting in June 2009.

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)

I have been intern for Dassault Falcon Jet (DFJ), an American subsidiary of Dassault Aviation, a French company and one of the major players in the corporate and private aviation industry. Current production model Falcons (F900, F2000, F7X) are manufactured in France then fly in "green" condition to the completion center of DFJ, in Little Rock, Arkansas. There, the optional avionics and a custom interior are installed and the exterior is painted.

I worked in the Engineering Processes department with the "check team". The first step of the completion is the Design Office: the designers use the software CATIA and created the cabinets drawings in CATProducts (CATIA files). Those CATProducts are sent to the Engineering Processes department where the check team checks there is no design or technical issue. The objective of my internship was to understand the check process and to develop a Visual Basic macro with CATIA that would make the CATProducts check easier and faster.

To perform an internship is for any student one of the key factor to achieve integration of her/his knowledge with actual industrial needs. When I applied for an internship at Dassault Falcon Jet, my goals and motivations were to discover the engineering field and to precise my professional project, to improve my professional English, and to be immersed in a foreign country's culture. I was excited to work there because I find the final product very attractive. It's a pleasure to work for such a magnificent result. I also really appreciated to work with different nationalities: American, Indian , Canadian and French people. This melting pot, with different languages, nationalities and ways of working has been very enriching. I have learned fascinating lessons of adaptation that are going to be helpful in a close future.

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

The J-1 VISA and the airplane tickets have been a big expense. The J-1 VISA for interns is more expensive than in other countries because it covers an obligatory health insurance. I had to get a loan to pay for it so the funds provided by American Friends of Arts et Métiers will be used to reimburse a part of it. I thank them !

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 am glad I achieved the aim of my internship: I developed a Visual Basic macro that cleans the CATProducts before the Engineering Processes department check. We gained until 90% time on a particular technical check of the cabinets fasteners and in the mean, we gain 30% time on the entire cabinet check. This tool will be put in place in the Design Office, before the Engineering Processes department, to be even more efficient.

I really enjoyed my time in Arkansas, "The natural state". I met many different people who make me discover their own culture. I experienced the American way of life, travelled, followed the Health care reform campaign, celebrated the Independence Day and Thanksgiving, but also had a roommate deployed in Iraq. All of that helped me to open my mind and understand a way of life and values that can be so different from Europe. I am glad I lived such an enriching experience.

This internship has been a success as I discovered the Design Office of an aeronautics company and it helped me to precise my professional project. A six-month internship abroad is a well-appreciated experience. Moreover, these 6 months helped me a lot to improve my English, which is a great satisfaction. To speak English is a necessity for an engineer today and immersion is the best way to learn vocabulary and expressions, and to get a better accent.