

Final Reflection

An internship refers to the period in which an organization provides the work experience for a limited period. In essence, an internship is geared towards developing as well as improving the intern's business skills in technology, quantitative reasoning, communication, as well as teamwork. Every intern is required to observe as well as participate in the ideal business operations and critical decision making and borrow these skills for future use in the professional world. As evident, the internship allows interns to meet professional role models as well as potential mentors who stand a chance to provide suitable guidance and support.

Evolution of Responsibilities throughout the Semester

This was my second time interning for this company. I first apply for this company as an intern on Jun 2019, I was looking forwards to working with them during the duration of my Fall Semester from September to December 2019. After I finished the internship, I was given the offer and opportunity to continue with them for one more Semester during my Spring 2020. Off course after hearing that from them I was thrill and gladly accepted the offer. With this company I had innumerable opportunities, featured with considerable increases in responsibilities.

In the beginning, I was ambitious to serve in the entire organization as an intern. I was highly fascinated to pay attention to the varied mode so operation within the organization while focusing on how of attaining powerful knowledge as a result. In other words, I was just the new intern that key stakeholders mandated to mentor and train; I was not given much responsibility for the first few days. My duties consisted of observing what my seniors and others did and then learn from them. However, as weeks passed by, I had given more responsibilities. For instance, after a

week of starting my second internship with them I was asked by the owner of the company himself if I would like to join a new project they were starting. They were considering the opportunity of expanding their business to Venezuela, or at least the possibility to get raw material from there. Since I am from Venezuela, they told me I would be a great addition to the team. I was very glad to hear that and very excited as well.

When working with the team in charge of research for expansion to Venezuela, I had the opportunity to apply all the knowledge I had acquired so far from all my business classes. I had to do a lot of individual research and build presentations for the board of executives. This all was very exciting but also nerve wracking. The company was seriously taking me into account and counting on me, believing all the information I was providing was accurate. Working with this project was a lot of responsibility, but one I was happy to take.

Another project I was able to be a part of was with the team in charge of managing the new headquarter in Dominican Republic. By the time I re-join the company for my second internship with them, I found out they had decided to open a new headquarter in Dominican Republic and had almost everything ready to start doing business there. However, they still needed some help with the translation of documents into Spanish. I was glad to help them with that and other organizational tasks.

At the sales Department, another increase in responsibility was the management of money. I had to be sure I was charging and receiving the right amount of money from customers and recording payments under the proper accounts. I also had to make sure not to oversell or undersell any product that made me be extremely careful with the inventory. Every hour or so, I would confirm with my supervisor the exact quantity of every product in stock.

When working under accounting, I had to be extremely careful to make sure I was not misinterpreting any financial sheets or that I was not miscalculating sums of money. At the very beginning I was not given much responsibility, however, after a while of demonstrating my skills with excel and with the organization of cash and money, in general, they started to allow me to help with the accounting forms and money allocations.

When working under Production, I had to be careful when recording inventory. If I accidentally misinterpreted inventory, then people at sales could oversell products, and then this would cause problems with customers.

Most Valuable Opportunity Identified during the Semester and Employer Feedback

There were a lot of different opportunities for me during this internship. First, because this is a small company that is still slowly growing, I had the chance to work under various departments, which helped me diversify or expand my understanding of the different areas that are found and needed within a business. I got to learn firsthand how a company is run and the types of decisions that are made within it.

While working on sales, I had the opportunity to work firsthand with customers. This gave me an understanding of the importance of customer service for the sustainability of the business. While working at this department, I also got the opportunity to familiarize myself with customers who gave me tips about how to do business with different people. Most of our customers are wholesalers, so they had valuable advice as to how to keep a business-to-business approach.

While working under the accounting department, I got the opportunity to experience what type of accounting decisions a business has to make. I have always been interested in accounting; however, because of my tight schedule with classes, I do not have much room for taking extra

accounting electives. This very fact makes me value even more the opportunity to manage the company's books and to learn how everything is administrated.

While working on telemarketing, I had the opportunity to learn about different ways telemarketing can be used for. I had had experience with telemarketing before; as a matter of fact, my current work-study at the university consists of fundraising over the phone, which could be argued it is a type of telemarketing or at least it is similar to it. However, during my internship, I learned that telemarketing is an excellent way to not only market our product but to do market research and get information on how accepted is our product on the market as well.

While working with the teams for expansion to Venezuela and Dominican Republic, I had the opportunity to be part a real part of the company. Specially with the team for Venezuela, I had the opportunity to provide knowledge only I could Known. I was able to use my conexions in my country to help the company understand the major possibilities and also risks that would involve doing business there. One of the major opportunities that came after being part of this project was the possibility to further my work with them in the future. They told me they would be glad to offer me a permanent Job position after I conclude my studies at the university.

All these opportunities were of great importance to my professional's pathways but also in enriching my competence in my future career. However, I underscored and embraced the opportunity to continue to work within this company in the future. I understand that as an international student, I have to adhere to the strict rules established in this great nation. In this regard, I am not in a position to take any form of occupation unless it is under CPT (Curricular Practical Training), which allows me to work in the work field up to a year while perusing my major to gain real-life experience, or OPT (Optical Practical Training), which allows me to work in the work fields for a year to gain experience after graduating. But they only provide work

authorization for up to a year each. If an international student where to want to work in the US after OPT, then they would need to look for a company willing to sponsor them for a work visa. And this is what this company is offering me; they are offering me the opportunity to not only do my OPT with them but to also sponsor me for the possibility of obtaining a work Visa with them.

Determination of the Success of Internship in Comparison with Personal Goals

An internship is one of the essential rites of passage that goes undisputed in every career preparation. In my understanding, an internship is aimed at providing a high-minded opportunity for interns to familiarize themselves with the basics as well as the practical aspects of their future care and hence my case is no exceptions. My internship has provided an ample opportunity to establish the firsthand relationship of working in the ideal world. However, I had to bear it in mind perfectly that every goal takes time to be accomplished and that I must work for it to call a success, I had to complement my thoughts with the assertion that not all my goals would be met during this time at the internship, but my expectations were more than exceeded. It is my fate to assert that I was not in a position to accomplish all my goals during the internship. For example, I had a lot of expectations to be able to bring more useful ideas to the company so that they can see and consider my ability and rank me as a future/potential asset for the company. It was also my anticipation that I would get a fruitful chance to make the company a better organization for the present and future economy. Coincidentally, my ideas were favorably presented by one of my colleagues, and I was really challenged. Nevertheless, I have learned from this internship, and I am looking forward to sharing my ideas even if afraid of them being denied.

On the other hand, looking at the overall experience at the internship, I lack the most accurate word to describe my happiness and gratefulness based on encounters from the entire internship. The entire engagement was a success, and everything was remarkable. As a result, I was able to harness the skills, knowledge, in addition to theoretical practices that I had acquired in my course of study. The entire internship has enriched my experience in a various department such as sales, accounting, production, and more significantly in carrying out essential telemarketing services. In other words, the internship has provided a perfect joint with personal goals by providing a nice learning curve that allowed for little but reputable experience of the professional world.

Lessons Learned

The working world is a jungle and an internship is the bottom line that lays the foundation for providing the most qualified professionals to serve in the same world. Asserts that other than gaining experience, an internship is meant to allow interns to garner the most appropriate knowledge required in their future career and take the initiative to address the affiliated risks. It also entails putting into practice what has already been learned from class while focusing on gaining reputable knowledge useful in the professional world.

It is with great honor to assert that the entire internship was an eye-opener to my career needs, and I was able to learn a couple of aspects. For instance, I was able to master technical skills in a varied department within the same discipline. I learnt that accounting requires one to be accurate and precise in all calculations to avoid loss and added expenses to the company. I also noted that erroneous accounting could be a cost to the client, and aspect which would suitably

violate trustworthiness of the business to its customers in general. In addition, mastery of technical skills helped in learning on how to make establish presentations acquiring complex but essential communication skills that are never taught in school. Mastery of technical skills helped in realizing that marketing is dominated by data nowadays, and hence it is the responsibility of every marketing expert to connote the ideal meaning of web-based informatics.

I also attained an essential background knowledge in international business and entrepreneurship. Through observation and practice, I learned how venture capital works, the varied responsibilities of a team, and the ideal functions of the staff at a venture capital firm. Moreover, I learned how the cooperatives are operated and the key driver as well as an indicator of success in every business. As an intern, I also attained essential background knowledge since I was equipped with substantial knowledge of financial markets, technology trends, in addition to corporate economics.

I learned the importance of perfect interpersonal skills by honing the capability to interact and connect with people as well as build trust. I got the knowledge that accurate interpersonal connections, trust as well as first impressions are essential drivers toward the success of the entire organization. I acquired soft skills based on how to communicate with entrepreneurs, businesses, customers, as well as other participants of the technology start-up ecosystem.

Amazingly, I learnt that internship is a golden chance for building a network of contacts by establishing relationships with people who can be of great help to you by serving as mentors or suitable advisers. It also entailed expanding network to incorporate other like-minded learners who can pose a positive challenge toward career preparation and realization

Conclusion

In summary, the internship has been one of the most essential as well as interesting encounters that have paved the way towards my career development. The entire internship has opened a reliable chance to learn and put the acquired knowledge into practice for perfection in varied departments such as telemarketing, accounting, and in the sales department. There is no doubt that technology is quite essential to every individual's tech-start-up world. Herein, it is recommendable for every intern to start establishing a series of networks so as to have an improved opportunity to rehearse and connect into the entire world.