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Internship research paper

According to my plan of study, I am supposed to do an internship related to my sociology course. I decided to do an internship rather than taking summer class because in my opinion, internship helps students to test what they learnt in the classroom in different issues. It helps students to gain practical knowledge with many different ideas. It helps in networking contacts keeping good relationship with coworkers and other members of the organization. There is no doubt that it enhances intern's skills and abilities. The most important aspect of internship is that it assists an intern in decision making process and career plan. (<http://www.careers.ucr.edu/AIP/Students/benefits.html>)

“The internship provides students with an opportunity to work off-campus and apply sociological skills to the real world.”(<http://www.luc.edu/depts/sociology/internship.htm>)

According to the sociology internship program of Sociology Department of University of North Alabama, “The internship opportunity affords Sociology majors the opportunity to put concepts, theory and methods into practice through direct involvement with supervisory personnel in professional work environments related to Sociology.”

Being a student from University of North Alabama, Sociology Department Internships requires 150 hours of direct contact work and it should be done during one regular semester or a regular summer term.

(<http://www2.una.edu/sociology/Sociology%20Courses.htm>)

Concept and idea of internship

I like the idea of internship provided by this organization. I had a concept in my mind that internship should be done at a particular organization with some specific jobs within that office building. The significant and interesting thing about this internship is that it is not bounded within the office building of Osgood Center. This internship is different in a case that we go to different hearings, symposiums, talks and events which occur in Washington D.C. This means these events do not occur at one particular place. Henceforth, we go to different places where the events occur.

What makes Osgood Center internship different from other internship?

The most interesting thing about this internship is the flexibility of the time. As other internships, we do not have to follow the same time schedule every day. Our time schedule depends on the event in which we are going to attend. Most of the time, we end up with one event in a day. But some time we do attend more events if they are related to our major academic fields and if they are interesting. As far as my knowledge after attending many of those events, I found that most of the hearings, symposiums and talks continue for 1-2 hours. Most of these events were held on time. I learned that punctuality is the most important thing here I have seen with the people. Every time when ever we arrived the venue at exact time (and some time few minutes late) for the event, we did not get our seat and we had to stand up for the whole event. And there were some hearings in which we could not get inside though we were on time because there were many people ahead of us before the events started. This made me realized that to attend the events in

Washington D.C., being punctual is not enough. We need to be at least 5-10 minutes ahead at the place where the events occur.

Another thing which I like about this internship is that we get to know the surrounding office buildings of Washington D.C. Most of the hearings, briefings, conference and seminar took place in different organizations. Some of the organizations where most of the events took place are to be mentioned below.

- 1) The Brookings Institution
- 2) Rayburn House Office Building
- 3) Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
- 4) United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- 5) American Enterprise Institute (AEI)
- 6) Cato Institute
- 7) Heritage Foundation
- 8) Hudson Institute
- 9) Carnegie Endowment

We even went to some other institutions and organizations as participants which were not mentioned above. But most of the hearings and symposiums on current issues of today's world occurred in above mentioned organizations.

I was not familiar about the RSVP system until I attended these events. "R.S.V.P. stands for a French phrase, "respondez, s'il vous plait," which means "please reply." The person sending the invitation would like you to tell him or her whether you accept or decline the invitation. That is, you will be coming to the event or not?"

<http://people.howstuffworks.com/question450.htm>)

Another major interesting part of this internship for me is the discussion session on every Friday. The two hours discussion period covers opinions about the events and a current issue related article published either in The Washington Post or The New York Times. Dr. Shelton Williams, director of Osgood Center for International Studies makes this session much more interesting with his personal ideas, opinions, thoughts and knowledge. We discuss on the present issues and express our opinions.

Generally when we do an internship, we get to know the people working in that particular section of the organization. But this Osgood center internship does not apply only to that point. I found more than this. We get to see and meet different people. During our internship period we met Congressmen, Senators, Specialists, Ambassadors, Foreign Ministers, Diplomats, Policy Makers, experts, writers, representatives from the State Department, Department of Defense, and National Security Council, leading minds in think tanks, pioneers and many people working with NGOS and INGOS. This seems to be quite impossible if we would have done internship in some other organization rather than Osgood Center for International Studies.

Major events

According to the weekly schedule provided by Osgood Center, I attended many hearings, symposiums and conferences in Washington DC during the period of internship. Every day the event topics were different. Some events were focused on past issues and most of them were on current issues of the world.

Though, I have attended many different events, I want to divide the events into some specific divisions. They can be classified into following groups.

- 1) Book review
- 2) Present Iraqi issue
- 3) South East Asia
- 4) United States
- 5) Others

First few week events were more focused on present Iraq and Iraqi reconstruction. Iraq again came into more highlight when Iraqi's most wanted Al-Qaeda leader Abu Musab al- Zarqawi was killed. Some of the events which I really like to focus are as given below. Among above classifications, I want to focus only on two issues- book review and present Iraqi issue.

➤ **Book Review**

“The Good Fight: Liberals, Conservatives and the War on Terror,” a Brookings book briefing session was my first event in Washington D.C. This event pretty much gave me an idea about the events and it made to feel easy for the other events. This is a recent book by Peter Beinart who is a Brookings nonresident fellow. He briefly talked about historical viewpoint on liberalism, conservatism and war on terror. His briefing was mainly focused on liberalism and conservatism but most of the time; he included the points on “War on terror.” This was the first time I heard more about liberalism and conservatism. During his briefing, he proclaimed that American democracy is a fixed model of democracy to the world. He clarified that liberals talk about foreign policies

with isolation without recognition of outside world. He also stressed on the necessity of institutional cooperation to act legitimately with world institutions for world peace. He mentioned his opinion about Iraq saying that if the Iraqi government wants American soldiers to stay longer for security reasons, they should not leave Iraq. This first event gave me insight about lots of things which I did not know before. It created enthusiasm within me to be prepared for other events. This is the only book review I have attended ever since I have started this internship.

➤ **Present Iraqi issue**

One of the sessions of hearings about Iraq took place at Rayburn House Office Building on June 8th. The topic of the event was “Review of Iraq Reconstruction.” The chairman Henry J. Hyde opened the conference with the death news of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Iraqi’s most wanted terrorist. He mentioned that his unexpected death was a conquest in the Global War on Terror. After the fall of Saddam Hussein, the U.S. provided about \$29 billion for the reconstruction of Iraq. He also said that the reconstruction can not be done over night. It takes time. The speakers emphasized on the need of creating truly successful Iraqi troops and cops forming stable Iraq with peace with its neighbors.

Another event on Iraq was also very impressive and interesting. The topic was “Iraq’s New Government: Key Players, Issues and Direction- A Kurdish View.” The speaker was his Excellency Quabd J. Talabany, son of present Iraqi president, Jalal Talabany. He is the representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdish (PUK) and the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to the U.S. He started his view point saying that

present Iraq has many challenges. He also focused on the rebuilding of Iraq's economy with economic plans.

Being native of Kurdistan, northern part of Iraq, he also briefly talked about the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Kurdistan during Saddam Hussein regime. He believed that international soldiers from Iraq should be withdrawn slowly but should not be withdrawn right now. Simultaneously he also warned that Iraqi people do not want U.S. fighting for internal debate. He also mentioned about the three major sects Sunnis, Shitte and Kurdistan. Every sect has a fear that one sect would dominate another sect. So, according to him, all the sects should have trust with each other. When he was asked about the question about the possibility of dividing the country into three parts, he said that people of the country determines whether to have three pieces or not. At the end of the event he said that Iraqi people want to function in their own way as soon as possible but still they need more time to come to normal. He said, "We are not sure when will we be able to send the international troops out of the country. We need them until Iraqi people feel secure."

Another event on Iraq which took place at Center of American Progress with the title "What are the U.S. policy choices for Iraq now?" focused on the need of a different plan than the real plan which exists currently. John D. Podesta, president and chief executive officer of the center for American Progress started the event with current news about racial upsurge in violence and some difficulties of reconstruction in Iraq. He stated that Bagdad is changing into bloodies and deadliest city because of every day chaos, violence and regional conflict. He blamed Bush administration for not being able to bring

peace in Iraq. He also said that Bush administration lost control over Iraq and it can not progress. According to him U.S. invasion in Iraq is a mistake and emphasized on the need of new thinking and new ideas to bring peace in Iraq. Another panelist Morton H. Halperin, a senior Fellow of the Center for American Progress and the moderator of the event said that U.S. is on the verge of big catastrophes. He also said, “We hear less about success and more about avoiding catastrophe.” Leslie H. Gelb another panelist of the event stated that the most troubling thing now is how the community reacts for the foreign policy. According to him Bush’s plan is the policy that can not win but is to loose slowly. He said that Bush is not going to withdraw American troops according to the Washington timetable to loose slowly. He mocked the plan of Bush administration to cut NGOs funding for Iraq. Another panelist Lawrence Korb, Senior Fellow of the Center for American Progress said that the war on terrorism is really not a far to fight terrorism but merely a tactic. He added, “We are at war with radical jihadists and if you stay in Iraq you are going to make it harder to win the war against radical jihadism.” He gave an example of Afghanistan which is not doing well at present. The panelists expressed their opinion that the longer the American troops stay in Iraq, the longer it will be difficult to win the war on terror. The panelists raised the issue of Vietnam, too. They said that Vietnam is not the right analogy for Iraqi war. One of the panelists said, “When we got out from Vietnam, there was no civil war. But now there is already civil war in Iraq.” All the panelists focused on the need of political settlement in Iraq on that event.

Overall the internship with Osgood Center proved to be milestone from where one can have broad and abundant knowledge especially on international issues. It keeps an

intern vigil about the current issues of the world. Osgood center is the right platform where an intern can learn the things in a practical way. I think I learned more than I would learn from any other intern organization without having the feeling of pressure. Therefore, in my personal opinion, Osgood Center is the right place to intern.