

Helene Snyder, Paris Internship 2016
Majors: International Studies and French
Minor: Chinese

Briefly explain where you interned this summer and what you did.

I worked at a company, [Worldcrunch](#), which translates news from around the world into English. I mainly worked on translations from French to English and Chinese to English. I also read online newspapers to find interesting stories to translate, searched for pictures for the articles, and proofed articles. Since Worldcrunch is a small company, office meetings were very interesting because the main discussion topics included their vision for progress and change in the future.

What was a typical day like at your internship?

I would start by reading different news sources in French as well as a couple in English. Since Worldcrunch has such a wide audience around the world, an American newspaper might share the same story from a different angle than a French newspaper. I would pitch various articles and put them in a GoogleDoc. Later in the day, the whole office would discuss which articles to choose. Then I would translate, find pictures, or do whatever really needed to be done for articles that day.

Were there any articles that were published that you are particularly proud of?

The first article I translated was about the Total oil company's presence in the Artic. It was a very long and technical article, it took me about two days to translate, and I was very proud of the finished product. During the summer, there were also a few breaking American news stories including Orlando that were reported on worldwide. Worldcrunch asked me work on those specifically since I was American. I had the opportunity to write articles in addition to translating them. In total, I translated about 15 articles, learning new phrases and vocabulary with each translation.

How was your experience with a host family?

I loved my host family. They were so welcoming and I am still in touch with the mom. They did not speak a lot of English, so living with them definitely improved my language skills. I also learned how to cook various French dishes including crêpes flambés. The family even had my parents over for an authentic French dinner when they visited.

How did your internship affect your post-graduation plans?

This internship was the first time I traveled outside of the country and it made me want to travel more. It also prompted me to look more deeply into journalism. Even though I have always been interested in law, after talking with my supervisor who worked with the *New York Times* in America as well, I became more interested in media law and journalism ethics. So, in a way, this internship experience changed my outlook on what I want to do. It also made me want to continue to learn and improve my French.

What was the greatest thing you learned?

The greatest thing I learned was how to live in a different culture. I learned by seeing how people do the same activity in a different manner or take a different approach. For example, the traditional French workday consists of an hour-long break for lunch where you eat a full meal with your coworkers. Although Worldcrunch is an American company, the entire office would frequently go and eat lunch in a park together. This is so contrary to the American fashion of eating lunch while working, and is just one example of a new experience I had while working in Paris.