

Jean Monnet EU-Canada Network Internship

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Upon my arrival to the University of Latvia, I was first introduced to the team with whom I would be working with during the summer. My supervisor was Dr. Tatiana Muravska, the Director of the European Studies Master's Programme (ESMP) at the University of Latvia, and the President of the Latvian European Community Studies Association (LECSA) and the Center for European and Transition Studies (CETS). In addition, I worked closely with the project coordinator and event manager Denize Ponomarjova and researcher for CETS Romans, helping to identify important aspects of organizing events and administration.

I had several tasks throughout the internship. I was responsible for organizing emails to participating major institutions of the EU and NATO in Brussels on behalf of the university. This was for the university's Brussels Week, a part of the EU Study Tour occurring each fall semester. The university offers the possibility to participate in a week of practical seminars to students of the ESMP visiting NATO and other EU institutions in Brussels, as well as to engaging in discussion on the current issues in Europe with experts and specialists.

I was also responsible for researching and compiling information on the ESMP for the anticipation of a publication detailing the highlights of the program since its establishment. I organized the information about CETS, research projects the program was involved in, publications related to the program, information about the Doctoral School, general information on the ESMP including their international dimension, their study tours, and alumni, and finally information on the Canada-EU internships.

Additionally, I edited various papers and manuscripts written in English which were recently completed by the team in Latvia. Overall, I learned that Latvia is an example of a successful transitioning state to the EU, and how quick and smooth their transition was. Further, I was able to learn about cultural and creative industries (CCIs) and their role in Latvia, in addition to research on non-adoption of electronic government services by citizens. This research touched on best practices for other governments to integrate their cultural creative industries to the fullest extent, and identified why individuals do not use online state services. This allowed me to have a

deeper understanding of Latvia in an international relations sense, by understanding domestic policies, industries, and the flow of ideas.

As an intern from the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence from Canada, I was invited to accompany Dr. Muravska to the Ambassador of Canada's reception celebrating Canada day. There I met the delegation from Canada, along with a multitude of Latvian and foreign ministers. This increased my knowledge on international events on behalf of governments and was a very interesting way to understand international relations on a personal basis.

Finally, I had an integral role in the organization of university files for record keeping and advanced preparation. This, along with the above tasks, allowed me to work on my interpersonal and communication skills, research competency, and the ability to work independently. We created the organization system to be able to be used in all future compiling tasks for the university, in addition to making the content clearer and easier to find.

What I will take away the most from this internship is the importance of interpersonal skills and working with individuals you may have never met before. I have a new focus on the value of personal relationships built over time and the flexibility needed to organize and run successful events such as Brussels Week. Overall, Latvia was a beautiful country and the partners were very welcoming and helping. Given the opportunity, I would recommend the program to anyone, or take part in it again!



A photo of myself and Dr. Muravska at the university library.



Outside the University library.



A park in Riga.