

International Office Internships

In 2010, the CISV International Office was very pleased to welcome George Efthymiadis as an intern, helping us with the updating of our Programme Guides. From Greece, George was living, working and volunteering in Newcastle when we met him. He was very interested in working with NGOs and making a difference.

MY VOLUNTEERING STORY WITH CISV, BY GEORGE EFTHYMIADIS



May 2010, Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. Me, wandering around this beautiful city, constantly thinking about new professional directions, fresh life perspectives. And then...here comes Ms Jenifer Watson! Tells me there's an internship opportunity in CISV's International Office. Am I interested? **OH YEAH!**

Here comes June. (Don't believe all the clichés about English weather. This summer has been really warm and sunny!!) I have started the internship! After having a conversation with Gabrielle and Bebbe, I get around to my upcoming duties (Oh these Guides!!): Completing the collation of educational programme guides, updating material, conducting research, recommending the best electronic format and ultimately, updating the programme guides. Hmm!! I hope it's as interesting as it sounds..



Excited as usual, I get myself into the programme guides. AAGGHH! Really long documents with loads and loads of information. No worries though! The more challenging it gets, the better. Many hours and days passed while I was reading them all (Lynne's coffee was helpful!). With the guidance and help from Bebbe (Big thanks) we separated big chunks from texts of the general programme guide, revised them and updated them. We matched them with the relevant parts from the specific programme guides and I started a colour coding system to distinguish one part from another. At the same time, I've been doing a bit of an investigation, looking through other NGO websites and came up with a few recommendations. Hopefully, you will see them later on in their final form.

Days and weeks passed by and everything was running smoothly. And then... in early August... I was asked if I wanted to participate to an IPP in Lorrach, Germany. Well, let me think for a while. **YES. YES.YES!** Now days seemed to run. A big thanks to Helen for helping out with the flights, Lynne for the forms I almost forgot and Gabrielle and Bebbe for their heartfelt support.

23 August – 4 September, Lorrach, Germany. They say a picture is worth a thousand words...



I had an absolutely brilliant time. I met and worked with people from all over the world. I learned about the lives of people living so far away from me, yet so close...

September has come and I am back at the International Office. I feel fresh and excited (again)! Life kept rolling in Newcastle and strangely, the weather is still good. There's a little bit of work left to be done with the programme guides but I am sure we will soon have them finished. Also... I have written a report of my CISV experience. It's what you have been reading the last few minutes...

WOW! CAN I PLEASE DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN?