

Student Testimonial

Daniel Amann

Nationality German **Age** 21

Course Internship

College Kaplan International College Auckland



Why did you choose to do your internship with Kaplan International Colleges?

I had several brochures about language schools and internships. In the end, I chose Kaplan International Colleges because it has a good structure and good information about the school and internship program. Kaplan is based in New Zealand, which was one of my favourite countries, and the combination of one month of language school and two to three months of internship was ideal for me.

How long was your internship and where were you doing this? What type of work were you engaged in during your internship?

My internship took two months, which I think is the perfect length. I was working for Tennis NZ.

I helped my supervisor update the Tennis NZ internet homepage. That means every morning I checked the results of overseas Kiwi tennis players. Once I had the results, I made a short story about where, when, and how they played, and put the information online. Furthermore, I was helping to do "Passing Shots," a weekly newsletter in which all the important

information of the week is summarised and sent out to people all over the country. I was also involved in preparations for the 2009 Davis Cup Tie in Hamilton. I prepared the booklet which included the player profiles, the sponsors, chair umpires, etc. The highlight was helping Tennis NZ in Hamilton with the Davis Cup. I spent five days in Hamilton and helped to organize the tie. Everything (homestay, food, etc.) was well organized by Tennis NZ. After that I did a report that included a lot of pictures and information about that Davis Cup Tie.

What did you particularly enjoy about your internship?

I particularly enjoyed the atmosphere in the office. Everyone is very kind, casual, and patient in explaining the work to you. I also enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in a Davis Cup Tie. The flexibility of work hours was very good, and I could get two days off to travel, which I really appreciated.

How has the Kaplan International Colleges staff helped you?

The Kaplan staff helped me by explaining everything about the internship. I received a good introduction to contracts and assignments. Kate also introduced me to the differences in working habits compared to Germany. She also introduced me to my supervisor, Alex, and showed me how to get to Tennis NZ. Everything was well organised and there was nothing I had to worry about.

How can you tell if your English has improved?

I think that I have improved my English a little bit in the language school, but I've really improved my fluency while I was travelling and doing my internship. All of your colleagues are speaking English and you have to start thinking in English. You learn keywords that you need in everyday conversation and your listening improves a lot. It's more difficult to speak to a native speaker than to a teacher. A teacher speaks slowly and tries to make you understand what he said, while in a normal office conversation you can listen to daily English speaking. I have also improved my writing skills due to writing articles every day.

Did you stay with a host family or in a residence or apartment? How did you find your accommodation and what do you like the most about it?

I stayed in a host family.

I enjoyed living in a homestay. I really liked the friendliness and helpfulness of my host parents. We had dinner together every night and we talked a lot. That also improved my English very quickly. Moreover, they had two other students with whom I had a lot of fun.

How does your internship help you achieve your career and study goals?

I think it helped me to see how people work in a different country, and to experience a different work mentality. Being alone in a foreign country and gaining work experience there helped me to grow up a little bit more. The internship helps you to become independent because you have to do things on your own. Although I won't study that kind of work, I gained a lot of experiences of how work can and will be.

Overall, how did you find your internship experience? Would you recommend this to other students back in your home country and what advice would you give other prospective Kaplan International College students?

I really enjoyed my internship time. I had a great experience with tennis in NZ and the working atmosphere was really good due to really nice colleagues. I will recommend it to other people and friends back in Germany. It made me grow up a little bit more and I could improve my English skills a lot. My advice: enjoy your time in New Zealand while doing the internship. Nice atmosphere, interesting work, and a lot of fun. The time goes too fast to not enjoy the internship. Altogether, the time in New Zealand was one of or the best time in my life. The combination of studying at a language school, travelling, and working was perfect for me. I saw a lot of the country and obtaining work experience is perfect for improving your English. I really enjoyed learning English this way.