



Glen S. Goldberg Scholarship Winner Jill Daddario Shares her Internship

Jill Daddario

Week 1

Hola from Mexico! I had a great first week in Mexico. I am all settled in my new home here in Mexico and am learning more and more spanish vocabulary and grammar each day. I visited Tepoztlan which was a beautiful hike up a mountain with an Aztec pyramid at the top and an amazing view. Also I went to Estacas which was a clear river where the first Tarzan movie was filmed! My favorite part of Mexico is that I am surrounded by enormous mountains that really bring me such joy.

My classes have been helpful so far and are preparing me to work in a spanish speaking environment. At this point I'm still very nervous about doing a job where my directions will be given in Spanish but hopefully soon I will have the language skills to succeed.

Also this week I had my first internship interview. The internship option I explored was through the international office at my Mexican school, UNINTER, and has all the language components and mostly the international business components I am looking for. I will be helping with international students from all over the world who come and study at UNINTER if I choose this job. I will be exposed to many different languages along with spanish which is exciting as well.

In the following weeks I have more interviews and will be able to decide which internship is the best fit for me for my five weeks of internship work. I cannot wait to see what the weeks ahead hold for me in Cuernavaca, Mexico!

Week 2

I feel that after being in Mexico for two weeks, my language skills have improved! I have been receiving extra help by attending a one-on-one conversation class twice a week. My teacher, Alejandra, fixed some technical problems in my speech and helped me with Spanish word pronunciation.

Also this week we visited the Ciudad de México. My favorite museum was El Museo de Antropología because they had different rooms for all of the different civilizations. I love the depth of history within Mexico. This country has a long past and it is all so interesting to learn about. Being able to see where the Mayans put the sacrificial hearts and where the blood flowed was amazing to see as well as the road to independence for Mexico. Also, I did not know that

Mexico City is the second largest city on the world next to Tokyo. Exploring this massive city with my roommates and my host mother and her daughter was an unforgettable experience.

Week 3

There is such beauty surrounding me at all times here in Mexico. I had no idea I would see so many beautiful mountains, amazing ancient pyramids and historic, intricate churches when I decided to come here. This past week I went to Teotihuacan, which is home to dozens of pyramids built by the Aztecs more than 2000 years ago. It was such an incredible experience to stand on pieces of art that have stood strong through so many years and events. There was also even older pyramids at Puebla. Nature has grown over the pyramids there however the public can walk inside and go through the pyramid which was another cool, rare experience.

It is very hard for me to be so far away from my family but I know that being here is helping me get ahead and be the best I can be! I am starting to volunteer with lower class children this week, which is a five week commitment, and then I only have two weeks until my official internship begins. I need to really study and focus on my Spanish these next two weeks so I can be a successful employee at my internship. I have two more interviews and then I will know exactly which business internship I will want to do. This journey is already moving so fast. I am trying to enjoy and learn each day!

Week 4

This past Thursday, I had an interview with an international business office, the Secretaria de Economia, in the center of Cuernavaca. The project that this office would like me to assist with is a business and event project directly with China. It seems as though this office is making great strides in the business world and I would love to work in such an accomplished office.

Furthermore, I have one more interview this week at the World Trade Center. I am excited to hear what projects I will have there as well but as of now I am very interested in working at the Secretaria de Economia.

Tomorrow is the start to my last week of full classes which is a little scary because that means I begin work in one week! I hope my Spanish skills can support me in the real Spanish world. This week I will work hard and continue to expand my Spanish vocabulary and improve my grammar so I will be ready to start the second half of this Mexico journey.

Week 5

My two classes are now done and tomorrow I start my full time internship at la secretaria de economia in the center of Cuernavaca. I am excited to meet new people and be in a new environment but I am also very nervous. I am just going to give all my effort and do the best I can and hopefully that is enough! I need to remember that it is okay to ask for directions to be repeated. My bosses know I am not fluent in Spanish so I am sure they will understand if I need something repeated.

Also I am starting volunteering this week as well. I am excited for this experience because it is another great opportunity to practice more Spanish and will further prepare me for my internship and life in Mexico. I am volunteering three times a week for two or three hours at La Casa Tati. This place provides meals, education and a safe environment for lower class children to go while their parents are working; basically a lower class daycare center and school. Also poor women can get support from this organization. I hope I can make a difference and shine a light

on these women and children's lives here in Mexico. Overall, I hope this week is the start of some great new opportunities to learn and grow!

Week 6

This week was the start of my internship at the Secretaria de Economia in Cuernavaca. My boss, Josue Valencia, is a very nice guy, as are the other government groups in the office. My project is perfect for my international business major because it deals with doing business with China, which of course is an important market. My job this week was to gain knowledge on the culture of China and how to do business with and in China. My boss is happy that I speak English because there is more information regarding business in China in English than in Spanish. My research is done in English and then I will translate my findings into Spanish for my boss and the office.

Also this week I started volunteering in a poor area to help mothers and children in poverty. I worked six hours this week but usually it will be for nine hours. I helped serve food to the children, and then I taught an hour and a half class of English and a variety of fun activities. At the end, all the teachers and staff work together to do dishes and clean the school. I love this job because it is interactive and I am learning so much Spanish from working with children.

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