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German Federal Employment Agency: A summer internship experience

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German Federal Employment Agency

A Summer Internship Experience

Jessica Raboin, Sociology and German Studies

The Federal Employment Agency is the largest provider of labor market services in Germany, with over 700 agencies, an institute for employment research, international placement services, a university, leadership academy, and family benefits office, among other subdivisions. The agency is publically-funded and has several integral responsibilities that are outlined below. My interest in career counseling, labor market management and social services spurred my interested in independently arranging an internship for summer 2014 with an agency near Munich, Germany.

<p>Learning Goals & Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Gain insight into the different departments in the agency and German social services . Explore the field of career counseling . Build advanced business German skills . Apply coursework 	<p>Job Placement Services</p> <p>Job counselors provide customers with job search strategies, goal setting, and personalized job announcement emails. Customers who are receiving unemployment benefits are required to see a job counselor until they find work again. Individuals looking to change positions or start a new job in the area may volunteer to meet with a job counselor.</p>	<p>Intensive Job Placement Services</p> <p>When customers become long-term unemployed, which means more than 12 months, a special intensive job counselor is assigned to them. That counselor meets with them more frequently, assigns homework such as writing cover letters, and requires the customer to attend certain information sessions. This is done to avoid having the customer enter into welfare.</p>
<p>Registration and Welcome Area</p> <p>This is the initial entrance area where customers register as looking for work or as unemployed claiming benefits.</p>	<p>EURES: European Employment Services</p> <p>I assisted a EURES advisor with a international employment placement project, coordinating skilled laborer between Slovenia and Denmark.</p>	<p>Disability Services</p> <p>This department provides employment services and benefits for individuals with a variety of disability challenges, including physical, social, mental, and addictions.</p>
<p>Career Information Center</p> <p>This is a separate area of the agency where anyone can go to receive help with cover letters, resumes, or looking for work. Staff is available to answer a wide variety of questions and serve often as the first point of contact for many citizens looking for a new position.</p>	<p>South African Economic Ministry Visit</p> <p>The president of the agency I was at invited me to be apart of a presentation on youth unemployment and training programs. I helped to edit the presentation and assisted with interpreting for the economic ministers.</p>	<p>Career Counseling</p> <p>School-age students and college students may chose to meet with a career counselor to help with finding an apprenticeship, choosing a major, or figure out what career path personally fits to them.</p>

