



Students speak to a human resources official from the U.S. Jewish Group during an event at Dubai Women's College.

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#### Appreciation

Ravi is in his final year at DWT's Palm Jumeirah, and is set to graduate with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering. In order to graduate he was required to go on a work placement for a month and a half and not only work but write reports and be graded on what he is learning. Ravi has been working for a petroleum geology and engineering contractor's enterprise as a technical support assistant for almost six months.

Although the job assigned to him was not what he had expected, Ravi has learned to make the most of the opportunity. He was expecting to join the core engineering programme of the company and gain hands-on experience in the engineering design field. This was not the case.

"I was put into technical support. I did not have a lot of it, it's not a complete work, it's just a different piece of knowledge," he said.

"I like to look at everything in a positive manner. Even if I don't get what I expect, I make the most of what I have." From his experience, he believes it is important for interns to understand "to might not always be as you expect it to be".

He said, "Work is not as simple as it looks (as you think), there are a lot of variables. There are things you aren't accustomed to, but you will have to do," he said. Now that his internship days are almost over, a retrospective Ravi said, "It feels very different from college life. There are lots of responsibilities but one thing that you get to learn a lot of things you don't learn in college. You learn how to talk to people and how things run in an organisation."

"The experience I've had here is what I will take away with me. It's been a great experience. I've been exposed to so much. The whole thing [field] is very dynamic and very interesting to be frank," he said.

Agree, from learning technical engineering details and how to be a professional, it appears the biggest realization Ravi has come to is, "You don't have to be extraordinary to reach extraordinary heights. You just need a decent amount of brain, a good amount of luck and the right openings."

**The employer**  
Last week Dubai Women's College (DWC) hosted the opportunity to apply for summer part-time or full-time work or to be interviewed with employers.

Dani Simons is a career guidance coun-

sellor at DWC, she said, "An internship gives them fundamental experience to get some work experience get an idea of what the workplace is like and what kind of jobs they can expect to have. It can also help them to better define their career goals. It can even lead to a position if they do a good job at their internship," she said, speaking to Hany Jaber for the event. "College agrees, it gives you lots of knowledge but most jobs usually give you hands-on and do the work, you're missing out, just that little bit," she said.

At the event, Abdul Qader Al Hamad, recruitment manager of Delta Finance, told about the organisation is keen to take on students for work placements. "We give them the experience to learn how to choose their career path but at the same time if they are interested in working with us we give them the same opportunity as well," he said.

Al Hamad said the selection of potential interns and part-time workers depends on a student's grade point average (GPA), discipline of study, communication skills and more importantly motivation and interest.

However, it is important that students research what an organisation is looking for in an ideal candidate. According to the Mahesh Kattil, International Human Resources manager of New Islamic Bank, the main characteristic sought after is interest in the right attitude. "We would like them to show evidence of leadership and learning."

Representing a relatively young organisation, Mahesh said, "Interns who are keen to explore new ideas, those who are creative, innovative and passionate about bringing something different to the table," are candidates who will stand out.

Given that part-time work experience may be hard to come by in the UAE due to visa restrictions and so forth, it is important to gain learning opportunities offered by an institution or simply seek them out independently.

At Abu Dhabi University recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Dubai Mission, specialists in oil and gas production. This serves as an example of the willingness of some organisations to benefit its younger employees by providing them with the necessary knowledge into practical knowledge.

"When asked his opinion about what makes a perfect intern, he said, "An intern has to be like a sponge, they must be able to absorb knowledge and retain it."



“An intern has to be like a sponge. [They must be able] to absorb knowledge and retain it.”

— Joseph Banerjee  
Regional Director of Delta Finance



Joseph Banerjee, Regional Director of Delta Finance.



**INTERVIEW DOS AND DON'TS**

- Do arrive on time.
- To be a good listener as well as a good talker.
- Do smile.
- Do look the interviewer in the eye.
- Do follow the interviewer's lead.
- Do make sure your good points get across to the interviewer in a clear, factual and concise manner.
- Do always conduct yourself as if you are determined to get the job you are discussing.
- Don't have your mobile phone on.
- Don't give one word answers, i.e., "yes" or "no".
- Don't lie.
- Don't make offensive remarks.

— Source: Mappan Middle East

American University of Sharjah, interns demonstrate their knowledge of the Hubble Mirror from an exhibit on display in a studio of Sharjah TV.

#### EFFECTIVE CV WRITING TIPS

- Do write your CV with a specific position in mind.
  - Do format your CV according to the standards of the employer you are looking to work in.
  - Do highlight your most relevant skills, experience and the position you are applying for.
  - Do ensure that every piece of information you include helps demonstrate that you are the most qualified person for the position.
  - Do highlight your accomplishments.
  - Do keep it clear and clean with a short paragraph.
  - Do use a font size of 10-12.
  - Do not use first person pronouns.
  - Do not use first person pronouns, by the way, keep the CV in the third person.
- Source: Mappan Middle East

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— Basil Bhatt  
Senior Lecturer at American University of Sharjah



Basil Bhatt, Senior Lecturer at American University of Sharjah.

#### DO YOU THINK INTERNSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT?

“Yes, it gives you experience.”

— LAMA MOHAMMAD, Chemical Engineering, American University of Sharjah (AUS)

“Yes, it gives you an idea of what to expect for work.”

— ABDUL HASSER AL SHAYAL, Finance, AUS

“Yes, it gives students a goal.”

— SAAD RASHI, Electrical Engineering, AUS

#### DO YOU PLAN TO COMPLETE AN INTERNSHIP?

“Yes, in my third year.”

— MIRHA SAMI, Social Communications, AUS

“Maybe after my semester course.”

— HENA SYAZAL, Marketing, Canadian University in Dubai

“No, probably next semester.”

— Firas Ebraheem, AUS