



## The Meaning of a Global City *Bojana Klacar*

**Bojana Klacar studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the field of Global Management and Economics. She was able to attend an internship of the Steuben-Schurz-Society at the Department for Finance of the City of Frankfurt am Main. The time of her internship during 12 September to 17 October 2011 was full of memorable if not spectacular experiences.**

I can honestly state that I did not experience any kind of culture shock upon my arrival to Frankfurt. This is mainly due to the fact that the city is the poster child for globalization.



*This was placed on my internship office door:  
Very welcoming*

Frankfurt is the financial hub of Europe and a thriving business plateau for overseas countries as well. As more and more foreigners reside in the city (one of out of every three residents in Frankfurt does not hold a German passport) they each bring a part of their culture making Frankfurt the global city that it is today. The way business is conducted in Frankfurt is

based on a type of universal standard. This made assimilation much easier for me and I was quickly able to adapt to my work surrounding as my colleagues were very familiar with American business cultural practices even if they followed German ones.



*First week : see  
Messe Frankfurt Auto Show – spectacular*

The first week of my internship was probably one of the most spectacular experiences of my life. My internship supervisor had really taken into account that I was a global management major and had sent me to Messe Frankfurt to get a firsthand experience of how a large international business functions. This also happened to be the week that the world's largest auto show was taking place and I got to tour it before the public was allowed in!

The following weeks of my internship focused on familiarizing myself with the city treasury department with the key focus being the city's finances. Throughout college, I have often wondered how I will be able to use the theoretical knowledge of business and economics that I have been attaining and it all came full circle at my

internship. I got the chance to merge my academic skills with practical ones.



*International Frankfurt on Main:  
snapshot from a ferryboat ride*

Doing an internship in an international city such as Frankfurt is by far one of the most memorable experiences of my life. The valuable knowledge I gained from working at the city treasury department will enhance my resume greatly and be extremely useful in my future endeavors. The people I worked with greeted me with such kindness and patience that all my communication and cultural fears ceased to exist. The organization of my internship was exceptionally versatile and suited my interests and academic studies. I am grateful to the *Steuben-Schurz-Society* for assisting me in the pursuit of this wonderful opportunity (*Photos: B. Klazar*).

*(SSG-USA Interns, ja/scha)*

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