



Munich, a summer fairy tale

Chi-Chi Li Sun

Chi-Chi Li Sun from University of Pennsylvania spent her internship in Munich, the capital of the State of Bavaria and known as the city with a high lifestyle reputation. As an American student but with a Chinese passport Chi-Chi Li Sun reports on visa management and life as an intern in Munich.

At the beginning of the **spring semester, 2011**, Dr. James, a coordinator from the German department at the University of Pennsylvania introduced the USA Interns program to our German class. It sounded very attractive, especially for someone like me who had never been on the European continent but always wanted to go. Yet I was worried that I might not be eligible to apply, as I am not an American citizen.

However, Dr. James informed me that as long as the applicants were registered at American universities, international students could also apply. So I prepared my CV, personal statement, along with all the other required material, and sent them to the Interns office in Germany. Shortly after I had a telephone interview with *Juliane Adameit* who helped a lot, also concerning a required Schengen visa. The process took a while, but everything turned out to be fine.

One thing that impressed me was how perfectly my internship criteria met with the company's needs. I went to a college in Beijing and my undergraduate major subject was Chinese linguistics and literature, and now my major is educational linguistics with a specialization in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, namely TESOL.

The company that I worked for was *go!Language Press*, a small company in Munich. Quaide Williams, the owner, had always wanted to open the Chinese market or to have some products for Chinese learning. A few days after my telephone interview with Juliane, she sent me the website of *go!Language Press*, and then I had another telephone interview with Quaide, during which we talked about potential things that I could do during the internship.



Chi-Chi Li Sun enjoys Bavarian beer and the Marienplatz in Munich (fotos:C-C Li Sun)

One main product of *go!Language Press* was Verbwheels: these were small wheels that could be turned to show irregular verbs, prepositions in different collocations, false friends, etc, covering a wide range of languages: from Icelandic to Catalan. During my internship at *go!Language Press*, I was mainly working on its customer database, namely adding and updating the information about its customers.

Quaide and I had one "business trip" to Nuremberg, visiting the language schools with some sample wheels, and see how they like them. Unfortunately we haven't done anything about the Chinese market, or for any Chinese *learning wheels*, but I would really be interested in managing something for Chinese learning.

As mentioned above, the language press was a small company, basically Quaide acted as the director of all departments, who is also a very energetic, open-minded and humorous person. Besides working, we had many interesting discussions about different cultures, manners, people's values, etc. I enjoyed Munich in almost every aspect: climate, food, beer, and its people. The Biergardens provide not only fresh beers, but they are also great spots for people-watching.

Now I have only one year left for my master program in the US, and after this, I hope to study in Europe, as this internship has made me more interested in cultural studies, which would also fit my background. Many thanks to Juliane and the USA-Interns Program of Steuben-Schurz-Gesellschaft, without which I had never known internship could be so much fun. Thank you very much for this unbeatable experience! I really appreciate. (USA-Interns ja/scha)

