Report to Queen Mary Expeditions Funds: Internship in Cyprus

Duration: 4 weeks placement (01/08/2019-29/08/2019)

The Placement

My internship was for an international commercial law firm based in Cyprus with offices in three cities Nicosia, Paphos and Limassol. The placement took place in the law firm’s headquarters in Limassol which is the main city for all business and commerce in Cyprus. The law firm has international offices in Prague, Brussels, and Kiev. The Legal 500 gave the law firm the highest rating across seven practice areas and is probably one of the most notable law firms in the East Mediterranean region.

Cyprus is a Common law country and most of the lawyers have been educated in UK universities. The law firm had a professional environment, the lawyers had a working attitude and demonstrated great devotion to their clients. At the same time the lawyers and the staff were extremely friendly and accommodating to their colleagues and all the summer placements. They had good cohesion between themselves and resembled a big tightly knit family. Such a balanced combination left a strong impression and respect for the firm and its people.

During my placement I worked in the Corporate Department and my role involved assisting lawyers with day-to-day tasks including drafting various documents and researching relevant law. More specifically, I performed, but not exclusively, these tasks:

- Wrote Articles on the new OECD proposal for a new International Taxation System to address tax evasion, and on changes in Trust Law and changes in trustee liability.
- Participated in an Extraordinary Shareholders Meeting, witnessed a dispute between the shareholders.
- Drafted Minutes of Shareholders General Meetings, Board of Directors Meetings, meeting notices, and proxies.
- Drafted a written resolution combining the approval of three assignments.
- Reviewed documents for submission to the National Registrar.

After Working Hours

I rented a room through an app and lived with a local family which were accommodating throughout my stay. The House was in the city center, and 20 minutes away from the beach, the old town and the old port. It was also 15 minutes by foot from law firm’s office.

During my free time I enjoyed the beautiful weather by relaxing at the beach or having a stroll in Molos (Pedestrian area by the sea, my favourite place). I thoroughly enjoyed the brilliant Cypriot/Greek cuisine and became the biggest fan. Colleagues from work would sometimes invite the summer placements to have dinner or lunch, which really helped to know the lawyers in the law firm.
Advice to future applicants

I would strongly encourage everyone to apply for the expedition funds in order to provide themselves with an opportunity to enjoy a new working experience. In addition, to gaining valuable working and professional experience, you will also see experience the culture of another country, meet amazing people and will try some of that delicious Cypriot food.

On the final note, I would like to thank the Queen Mary Expedition Funds for funding and providing the opportunity to experience a professional work environment and learn about a new country. I would also like to once again thank the law firm, which were very welcoming and facilitated such an amazing learning experience. Thank you both.