

INTERNSHIP INTERVIEW

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Where do you do your internship?

I am doing an internship at the *Wethoudersvereniging* in The Hague, which is an interest group for councilmen. The *Wethoudersvereniging* is mainly concerned with lobbying, but also trains councilmen on, for instance, what to do when they are just beginning their new job or when they are being threatened. The *Wethoudersvereniging* also conducts research - that is where I come in.

What assignment are you working on?

I am collecting data of all the councilmen in Amersfoort, from 1824 to the present. This is part of the project of my supervisor, who is doing a PhD on the regional and local government in the Netherlands from the Middle Ages until now. The database I am constructing contains data on the period the councilmen were active in, their political party and their portfolio. These data can be hard to find, since LinkedIn did not exist in the 19th century and a lot of local newspapers were cut in the 1970s and 1980s.

However, I do manage to find the data, via Delpher and Google.

What is your favourite moment at your internship so far?

Reading the news articles on Delpher was something I really liked to do, as well as attending the weekly meetings where I am learning a lot about the local government. For instance, I did not know councilmen do not get a salary. Instead, they receive a compensation, which makes it difficult for them to get a mortgage. I am really enjoying learning such facts about local government.

How does the coffee at your internship organization taste?

I don't drink coffee, but at the office, they have the perfect alternative for me: Chocofantasy cocoa powder. I mix it with warm milk and that's how I get hot chocolate. It tastes really good!

Do you already know what you want to do next?

I still don't know. I was looking at vacancies at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) the other day, where a lot of employees are needed. This really speaks to me, since I would like to help people apply for asylum in the Netherlands. However, I am also still considering a traineeship or a second Master. I am not sure yet, but we'll see what the future brings!

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