

## Summer in France Program – Job Search Tips

Students who participate in the Summer in France program have opportunities when they return to gain legal work experience. The types of positions available will vary from year to year and employers may consider a number of factors in making hiring decisions.

### **If you want to build your legal resume in addition to doing study abroad, here are a few tips:**

- Start thinking about your goals, plans and employment timeline (i.e. when you can start) early.
- Remember that ANY experience is good experience. Keep an open mind and do not worry about trying to gain experience in a particular type of practice or area of law. Building the legal resume just sets you up to be a stronger candidate for future positions.
- Consider a public interest position. Many are volunteer positions and will gladly accept your assistance for even part of a summer.
  - While many of these positions are unpaid, you are often able to obtain class credits for internships with non-profit entities.
  - The Career Development Office's annual Public Interest Career Fair is a great resource for potential positions. As you'll see below, there are many organizations in the area that are seeking student assistance in the law or policy arenas. This event happens every year in January and can be a great time to start some conversations about summer work opportunities upon your return.
- Make connections and start talking to attorneys in solo or small practices that work in the areas of law in which you are most interested or that tie in well with your background. Smaller firms are often more flexible in terms of summer hiring.
- Think outside the box. Consider part-time positions to gain experience. Look outside the traditional law firm position and to emerging areas such as compliance work or jobs in the insurance industry.
- Opportunities will arise starting in December, even through the summer. Watch for positions posted late in the spring and early summer that have the potential to continue throughout the school year, as well as ones that are project-based.
- Keep a copy of your resume and a draft cover letter, along with other typical application materials, on Symplicity. That way if an opportunity appears when you are overseas, you have access to all the necessary materials, no matter where you are.
  - There are many applications for positions that start the summer after your 2L year that are actually due the summer of your 1L year. You will probably need to complete some applications while in France, so be prepared and pay attention to deadlines!
- Use the Career Development Office for support, check the newsletter for highlighted job postings, and be sure to check Symplicity regularly for new positions.

**The following organizations are some of the many invited to the annual Public Interest Career Fair held at the Law School each January. Not all accept interns for a partial summer position, but many will consider that possibility**

- ACLU of Iowa
- ChildServe
- Drake Law Clinic
- Iowa Children’s Justice Summer Fellowships
- Iowa House Republican Caucus Staff
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Iowa Attorney General’s Office
- Iowa Civil Rights Commission
- Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Iowa Coalition against Sexual Assault
- Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services
- Iowa Department of Administrative Services
- Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Iowa Department of Corrections
- Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board
- Iowa Environmental Council
- Iowa Division of Labor Services
- Iowa Public Information Board
- EMBARC Iowa Secretary of State
- Iowa Governor’s Office
- Unity Point Health
- Iowa Justice for our Neighbors
- Iowa Legal Aid
- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
- Iowa Parole Board
- Iowa Property Assessment Appeal Board
- Disability Rights Iowa
- Iowa State Public Defender's Office
- Iowa Workforce Development
- Legal Aid Society of Story County
- Legislative Services Agency
- Metro Waste Authority
- Polk County Attorney
- Polk County Housing Trust Fund
- Polk County Juvenile Public Defender
- Story County Attorney Youth Law Center
- US Probation Office
- State Ombudsman Office
- Iowa League of Cities
- Title Guaranty/Iowa Finance Authority
- Iowa Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts
- Legislative Practice Center
- Public Employment Relations Board
- Iowa Association for Justice City of Des Moines
- Social Security Administration
- Iowa State Association of Counties
- Community Lawyers of Iowa
- United States Department of Justice (USDOJ)