



Miranda Schweisberg

Intern

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Karen Axelrad

# General Info

- A self-designed, international co-op based in Berlin, Germany
- The COOL description that my supervisor and I made fits the job well and explains most of what the job entails
- Unpaid co-op but easy to manage due to reimbursements given by Democrats Abroad Germany
- the Global Scholars Scholarship helped with some living expenses
- Definitely worth it; got to live and work abroad while also doing some traveling around Europe
- Was relatively easy to create but took a while however it is now in the co-op database so it will be easier in the future for anyone who is interested

# What Did I Do There?

- Majority of time spent doing database work, helping to plan events, attending protests and meetings, registering people to vote
- There is no office so all work was done from home besides the protests and meetings
- Definitely treated as part of the team and was constantly told how great and helpful it is to have an intern
- Berlin chapter especially were very welcoming and gave me a goodbye speech and present at my final monthly meeting
- Was given more important tasks farther into the internship as time progressed, including handling certain parts of the planning for the Annual General Meeting by myself



Say NO to..  
- Fascism,  
- racism,  
- ignorance,  
- injustice,  
- sexism,  
- xenophobia,  
- Dogmatism.

Stop  
bigotry,  
racism,  
sexism,  
xenophobia,  
dogmatism

**MEN OF  
QUALITY  
RESPECT  
WOMEN'S  
EQUALITY**

**OMG**  
OBAMA'S MY GUY!

**Sparda-Bank West**  
**3 YEARS  
364 DAYS  
AND COUNTING.**

**THIS  
PUSSY  
GRABS  
BACK**

OUT  
Rights  
laugh  
UP

Love Stronger than  
**HELL**

**PISSY  
MEN OF  
QUALITY BS  
SUPPORT  
WOMEN'S  
EQUALITY**

**PENCE  
IS MY  
DADDY**

**PARITY**  
Together for

**REINSTATE  
AUSTIN  
JOIN**



**RESIST**  
New York!

**BLACK LIVES  
MATTER**  
SCIENCE IS REAL  
LOVE IS LOVE

**=**  
equality

**DEMOCR  
BLACK L  
MATT  
LOVE IS  
DEMOCR**

**RESPECT  
WOMEN  
MINORITIES  
EQUALITY  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR ALL!**

**BECAUSE  
HEALTHCARE  
MATTERS**  
#WhyMarch

**I ♥  
PRO-  
CHOICE  
BOYS**

**DEMOCRAT  
ABROAD  
JOIN**

**WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS  
ARE  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS**

**love > hate**

# What Did I Hope To Learn On Co-op?

- Mainly wanted to learn how grassroots organizations come to be and how they grow into huge citizen led organizations
- Democrats Abroad is officially tied to the Democratic Party but is led by normal citizens abroad
- Was able to see new chapters being built in Germany and precincts being founded around Berlin
- Definitely also gained some office skills and am much more comfortable with my computer skills

# What Do I Wish I Had Known?

- I wish I had known the laws of Germany before going that pertained to the work I was doing
- Although an American organization, Democrats Abroad Germany has to follow German laws, especially privacy laws, and those are different than ones in the United States
- Would have been good to know those or have been trained on them before going
- Learned about those laws while I was there through making a couple mistakes but my supervisor and others helped me out

# What Did I Learn About Myself?

- Supervisors managerial style was very hands-off and he actually lived in a different city
- Learned that while that is nice at times, I prefer a more structured style with more supervision in case I have questions
- I am able to plan and complete work well on my own but it does get a little lonely at times not having an office with people around
- Was able to become more comfortable asking for direction and asking clarifying questions



# Most Exciting/Meaningful Job

- Most meaningful job that I did would be taking part in the protests
- Never really took part in any in the states before going on co-op so I did not know what they were like or how to begin preparing for them but learned quickly through others at Democrats Abroad
- Helping to plan these protests and then actually marching felt great
- Feeling connected to everyone marching was an awesome experience
- Really felt like I was getting my voice heard
- Especially important to take part in protests and action calls nowadays with so many rights being revoked
- Most exciting job would be helping to plan an event for Robby Mook (Clinton campaign manager) and Martin O'Malley (former Governor of Maryland) who were in Berlin and agreed to speak to DA Germany Berlin
- After the speech I was able to meet both of them and take pictures with Martin O'Malley



# Job I Had Never Done Before

- DATABASE WORK
- Mainly consisted of researching members of DAG to find out if they still live in Germany or not
- Then going into the database and update all their info while deleting those people who no longer live abroad
- Was a little monotonous at times but it was kind of fun using the tech skills I have gained as a millennial for my job
- Learned do it through training online and one-on-one help from my supervisor
- Ended up being pretty successful and explaining to incoming interns how to do the database work

# Preparation and Interviewing Process

- Fairly easy and casual
- Resume was sent by co-op advisor and received a response relatively quickly
- However, there was some miscommunication and it took a while to finally speak on the phone
- Interview done over phone but felt more like a casual conversation
- The interview was very sudden and last minute so I had no time to prepare beforehand
- Co-op class definitely helped me feel more relaxed and prepared
- The exercises done in class, especially the phone interview simulation, were extremely helpful

# Globalization

This co-op helped me understand a more unique aspect of globalization that most people do not focus on. Democrats Abroad is an organization in not only Germany but in 190 countries across the globe. This connects American citizens abroad to politics happening back home and it also connects Americans abroad to other citizens abroad. There are annual general meetings in each country and oftentimes members will come from other countries to meet and network. This single organization can connect you to millions of other Americans who choose to be abroad. This is done through monthly newsletters, meetings, protests, events, etc. At the Annual General Meeting in Berlin, I met American's who were living in England, the Czech Republic, Norway, and Spain. This kind of connectedness would not be possible without the modern day "shrinking" of the world due to technology. I think it is really amazing that American's who are living abroad can have such a great support system and place to go that connects them with the states. It helps a lot of people stay up-to-date with both issues back home and issues happening in their current country.