

Why spend your third year as an intern in the investment sector when you want to pursue a career in Public Affairs ?



Since his high-school years, Thomas Monarchi-Comte decided he would devote himself to the “res publica”, the public sector. Encouraged by his friends and family who confirm that his profile corresponds to his high-ranking public official, Thomas entered the Sciences Po-Dijon campus. Although he knew he would continue his studies at the Sciences Po School of Public Affairs, he decided to shift away from his first interest of serving the country for the sake of a third year internship...

Why did you choose an internship in an investment consulting firm in Miami despite aiming for a career in the public service?

Thomas Monarchi-Comte (T.M.-C.) - My strongest interest was to work for the country, and that is why I chose to enter the [School of Public Affairs](#) for my first year of Master's.

Even though I was on a fixed road to fulfil my objective of becoming a high-ranking public official, coming out of a linear and reassuring « comfort zone » was a good thing. I wished to strengthen my knowledge as well as my experience. You could even say I was trying, perhaps unconsciously, to challenge my project of pursuing a career in public affairs. To stay eight months in an investing firm, in a capitalist country, where money seems to rule – that was an interesting challenge for someone who wanted to work for the State, where mercantile interest is supposed to be absent or secondary.

What was your interest in working for a real-estate investment firm ?

T.M-C -In a « crossroad » city such as Miami, at the intersection of northern and southern America, as well as of Europe, cultural openness was a good thing. It allowed me to take a step back, to evaluate my knowledge and my skills. In contrast, I can still improve my knowledge about advanced technologies. However, that lack of knowledge was not a problem for me. I was not in a European public.

Without putting Sciences Po on a pedestal, I have to admit that the versatility and diversity of our education served me well. In short,

You should never hesitate to « leave the comfort zone », and go in a different direction than the road you have drawn out for yourself of that.

To know more

[The 3rd year internship and its formalities before departure](#)

[The visa formalities for an internship in the United States](#)