

# Being an intern in San Francisco



Swept away by the new tech wave, Lisa Bardet, currently a Master's student in Economics and Business, interned for eleven months at the Chamber of Franco-American Commerce in San Francisco during her third year. She told us about her professional experience in the San Francisco technopole.

## ***Christane Laloy (C.L) – What did you learn from this internship experience ?***

**Lisa Bardet (L.B.):** -To work for eleven months at [the Chamber of Commerce](#) allowed me to acquire both a rich experience of the tasks to carry out, and a global vision of the post, as well as of the functioning of the Chamber of Commerce. Both are essential to acquire autonomy in a team, and to take initiatives to become a driver of in-depth change.

An internship of that length of time also revealed itself to be a significant advantage for professional networking. I was fortunate enough to meet numerous entrepreneurs and French executives come to visit, work or develop their company in the United States thanks to [FACCSE](#). A long internship like this one enables encounters to develop further, and to create sustainable collaborations.

## ***(C.L) How did you find your internship? Would you have advice on how to find an internship in the United States and in particular in the « Bay Area » ?***

**L.B.:** While in the process of sending various applications, I talked about my search for an internship around me and I met someone who was a volunteer at the Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco. She recommended that I ask an organization which was looking for a communication officer. I applied and I was hired after several interviews.

On a more general note, I think that you have to make the maximum out of **your French network**. There are a lot of French entrepreneurs and executives in New York. They know Sciences Po, understand the importance of an international professional experience and above all, they are aware of [visa problems](#), unlike American recruiters who can be more reluctant.

## ***(C.L) Do you have any suggestions for professional success in California? To what extent is the work***

**L.B.:** The American culture is very different from the French culture, to a point I couldn't have imagined before living there a year. It's meals at the office, all the way to nurseries, hairdressers, and even an indoor kart track at the [Scribd](#) start-up. Companies compete. The downside is that these « improvements » contribute to blur the lines between personal and professional work, and to expand the

personal implication is essential to make the company move forward.

## **TO KNOW MORE**

[Contact Lisa Bardet on LinkedIn](#)

[See the site of the Franco-American Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco](#)

[How to land an internship in San Francisco and the "Bay Area"](#)

[Are you East-Coast or West-Coast ?](#)

[Silicon Valley – an American Dream for entrepreneurs ?](#)

[To know about the visa formalities for an internship in the United States](#)

