

Are you East-Coast or West-Coast?



For Oualid Bachiri, a student at the Sciences Po School of Communication, to have an experience in the United States was a priority. Not only do the States have a strong internship culture but professional experience in the country is well looked-upon by recruiters. New York and San Francisco are very attractive centres but which to choose? Oualid gives his personal take on his experience in both cities. And may as well say it from the start: both were worth it!

EAST- COAST: EVERYTHING IS SO BIG, FAST AND ALIVE !

From the start of my second year at Sciences-Po, I had the objective of completing my Bachelor years with an internship rather than with a year of student exchange. I was attracted to the opportunity of practising the more professional English language and by the idea of working for a company for an extended period of time. Even though my search zone didn't include the United States (« impossible to find » « visa procedures are too complicated » « too expensive »), I decided to take a chance and answered an internship offer as assistant to the global team of [Havas Worldwide](#), one of the largest communication networks in the world. My application was accepted and I left for nine months in Manhattan a few weeks later.

First impression for a newly-arrived : everything is so large, so big and so alive !

"You quickly lose the « French » accent complex... »

...because there are so many accents around. The city of the « Friends »' characters describes itself as a crossroad of cultures, promoting a very liberal and individualistic mentality which allows all to grow within the communities which they identify with, without restricting themselves to them.

"May

As the Havas Worldwide's global team's assistant, versatility is the rule"

as

well

say

I was responsible for the following:

I

got

the

opportunity

to

have

a

bird

eye's

view

of

the

different

careers

in

the

communication

world.

I

really

liked

that

and

it

helped

to

confirm

my

master's

choice."

WEST-COAST: WHILE NEW YORK IS SO ACTIVE, SAN FRANCISCO IS CHILL

"I chose to do my gap-year internship at a social start-up "

After a first gap-year internship at the BNP Paribas' Security services, I wanted to go back to the start-up working atmosphere. Again

San Francisco perhaps more than New York, is driven by a very progressive energy

"San Francisco est certainement une ville plus facile à vivre que New York"

After 10 PM, the streets are already quieter on weekdays, except for some neighbourhoods such as « Mission ». As for fast foods, they are much less visible in a city where there are legions of personal development supporters, devoted to fitness, meditation and yoga... **the people in San Francisco like to say their city is the most European of all American cities.** The climate helps (even though you always need a some kind of jacket in San Francisco !), the city is undoubtedly a more easy-going city than New York.

"What made the most impression on me was the entrepreneurial spirit which is so"

The « Bay area » is also a region of the **Silicon Valley**, its 11 new start-up creations per week, its 11 500 high-tech companies

"As project manager at CALSO, my objective was to maximise the impact of social"

- My first task was to assist in the writing of grant applications to company foundations for the financing of a training program for
- My second assignment was to assist in the management and development of an incubation program for foreign start-ups which **I learnt as much about the entrepreneurial world as about the funders' world.**

?Working for a start-up, with other start-ups, has been extremely interesting as it requires a lot of agility, creativity and a critical mind

TO KNOW MORE

[Contact Oualid Bachiri on LinkedIn](#)

[Learn about visa procedures for an internship in the United States](#)

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

[Silicon Valley – the American Dream for Start-ups?](#)

[Being an Intern in San Francisco](#)