



Hannah Summers – Internships with LCD

In the run up to the end of term, and with the deadlines of essays, exams and presentations in the midst, the terms 'work experience' and 'internship' may be shunted to the bottom of your list right now.

However, there are always those friends (I have them too), who always seem to be extremely organised, proactive, and making the most of their time (nothing like an efficient pal to make you feel a little bit uneasy and guilty!)

Finishing university in June, I had to start addressing the issues I have been so conveniently avoiding – namely, what now?! With an increasing trend towards the need for relevant work experience on your CV, I thought I'd get in contact with LCD and see if they had any voluntary positions on offer... So, two years after my own Hitch, I found myself joining the team to help them get ready for Hitch 2010!

One of the best things about my internship at LCD (aside from the cake and biscuits) has been the variety of work I have been given. The team had put a lot of thought into my placement before I started, making sure the projects I have worked on have been interesting and useful for me, but also extremely beneficial for them. This has meant that I have (rarely) been sat in a corner stuffing envelopes, but instead given areas to research and report on.

Introducing the Hitch to new universities is an important way for the Hitch to develop, and my first area of research was focused here. This involved looking into the demographics of all the UK Universities and trying to distinguish any regions where the Hitch could potentially be a success. Starting with a list of around 60 universities, I whittled this down to four universities whose students would potentially be involved in the Hitch.

Another area of focus has been on the need to establish further corporate support for LCD. Through the work I did, several relevant companies were able to offer discounts and support to this year's Hitchers.

Working with LCD has given me the chance to be a little more creative with research such as this whilst gaining important office experience: answering phones, dealing with administrative tasks, updating databases and working with Microsoft Office.

My time here has also allowed me to understand a little more about how charities like LCD work. LCD's biggest fundraising event is the Hitch, but there is a whole team of people in offices in England, Scotland, Wales, the US and also in Africa who are focused on other aspects of making the charity function. This includes working on other fundraising events, writing funding applications to trusts or developing Link Schools Programme.

In terms of my future, my internship at LCD has definitely set me up well by providing me with valuable experience in the charity sector. Having an internship position on your CV is definitely regarded as a positive by employers as it shows you're willing! I decided to do an internship with LCD after my Hitch in 2008, so if you are also looking for away to continue supporting LCD after your own Hitch, then I would definitely recommend getting in contact with LCD!