

Internship Evaluation

Research Internship

January to June 2021

Personally, I wanted to do an internship, so as to gain hands-on experience in my field of study and subsequently get a taste of the world of research. However, the main reason why I wanted to start this particular internship with Mr. Ulbricht was his research field of interest. More specifically, I learned about Mr. Ulbricht's research projects while I was at the Freie Universität of Berlin for my Erasmus studies in 2017 and since then I found his field of research intriguing and similar to my own interests.

Through this internship I sought to obtain a more profound understanding of the subject of Byzantine studies in relation to the intercultural and interreligious relations that had been established during that time. At the same time, I was eager to cultivate my research skills through direct contact with written sources and research questions. Last but not least, I aimed to develop technical skills that would facilitate my further engagement with research.

During my internship I managed to come into contact with manuscripts and to work with software necessary in the work of a classical philologist who is interested in the critical edition of texts. I also refined my methods of conducting bibliographic research. In relation to my studies, I read a variety of texts, often of different authors and genres, which helped me to gain a broad view of the historical and textual contexts of the Byzantine period I was researching. In addition, I learned how to work in a well-defined time frame in the best way possible, in order to get a good result in the assigned tasks. I do believe that I also developed to a good degree some soft skills, such as time management, the ability to work under pressure, flexibility in thinking and problem solving. Moreover, I acquired technical skills, such as the use of Classical Text Editor. Most importantly, I came into contact with the field of Digital Humanities, a field that represents, in my opinion, the evolution of classical studies and offers cutting-edge possibilities in otherwise conventional research. Throughout the internship, Mr. Ulbricht granted us the leeway to practice our own research skills by not rigidly formulating research questions and allowing us to observe the given material and to somehow become our own 'researchers' of the material.

All in all, my expectations for this internship have been largely realized. In fact, I firmly believe that this experience has provided me with valuable insight for my future academic, as well as non-academic plans. [...] In general, I think that the environment was friendly and protected, as there was room for error and experimentation. The supervisor guided us throughout the whole process and was open to questions and discussion both in relation to the internship itself and our own research interests. To conclude, I personally believe that this internship contributed significantly to shaping me as an individual, as well as shaping my future plans.