

Internship Report UN World Food Programme (WFP)

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I graduated from the MSc. Program in *Rural Development and Natural Resource Management* at SLU Uppsala in October 2018. Afterwards, I conducted an internship at the **UN World Food Programme (WFP)** in Berlin in the area of *Communication, Advocacy and Marketing* from November 2018 to April 2019.



Photo: Mascha representing WFP at the agricultural fair International Green Week 2019 in Berlin

The Organization

WFP (www.wfp.org) is the leading humanitarian organization in the fight against hunger. WFP delivers food assistance in emergencies and works with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year WFP is assisting 91.4 million people in around 83 countries. WFP differentiates between Country Offices (in countries they supply aid), Regional Bureaus (bigger administrative offices overseeing the country offices in the region), and Liaison/Relations Offices (responsible for relationship between WFP and biggest government donors, Berlin is one of these offices).

Application Procedure & General Information about the Internship

All open positions – including internships – are published on the online career portal of WFP: <https://www1.wfp.org/careers/job-openings? ga=2.162193018.719143873.1551536376-1253225041.1541617548>. It is only possible to apply for positions through this portal. In the portal you sign up, fill in your information and upload your documents like CV, application letters, certificates etc. Internships and the JPOs (Junior Professional Officer) are great opportunities to start your career at WFP and other UN agencies. To be able to do an internship at WFP you need to be currently enrolled OR have recently graduated in the last 6 months. Interns are paid monthly stipend from WFP up to the maximum amount of 1000 US-Dollar/month depending on the duty station of assignment. You are still able to apply for Erasmus+ even though you get the stipend from WFP. You can check with the SLU Mobility Team if you fulfil the other requirements to receive Erasmus+.

The Berlin Office

The Berlin office of WFP was founded in 2004 with the aim to expand the cooperation with governments of Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein and raising public awareness of the issue of hunger. Already then, the German government was one of WFP's most important partners. Today, Germany is the second largest government donor after the USA. The Berlin office consists of three departments: Donor Relations & Government Partnership; Communication, Advocacy & Marketing; and Administration & Finance.

Tasks during the Internship

- Daily press and media screening;
- Translate articles, publish and edit stories for the German WFP website;
- Provide input for German WFP social media channels, monitor statistics;
- Support the organization of/ and WFP's representation at events;
- Assist in drafting and writing publications;
- Support advocacy and donor visibility efforts;
- Translate documents from German to English and vice versa;
- Assist in arranging and preparing interviews and media briefings;

Main Takeaways from the Internship

- The internship provided me with a good insight into how an UN organization operates. Even in the communications department you get a good idea of how the relationship to big government donors is handled. Germany is an interesting donor since it is one of the most important ones and also because there are two ministries responsible for humanitarian aid and development cooperation: the ministry of foreign affairs (GFFO) and the ministry of development (BMZ). In many countries the ministry of foreign affairs is solely responsible.
- To do an internship at the Berlin office it is necessary to be fluent in German and English. But there are two other WFP offices in Germany that also sometimes take interns and that do not necessarily require fluency in German: The micro-donation app Share the Meal in Berlin, and the WFP Innovation Accelerator in Munich.
- If you speak one of the Scandinavian languages, you should consider the WFP office in Copenhagen that takes care of the relationships to the government of the Nordic countries. They have internships for each country on a regular basis.
- I think for someone that wants to start a career at UN, an internship is a very good opportunity. All consultants that worked at my office were former interns.
- Regarding the work in the Communications department, there are quite strict guidelines regarding wording and content. You get a good idea of the general communications strategies. I believe in one of the Liaison/Relations Offices you get a good idea of how these guidelines are put into practice in the work with the different government partners. If you are more interested in being closer to where these guidelines are made, I would recommend an internship in Rome at the headquarters of WFP.