

## Internship Report

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Type of mobility: Internship

Host Country : Ireland.

Host organization: Camphill Community Kyle, Ireland.

Period of internship: From 04/09/2016 till 15/10/2016.

Published : YES.

Both Name and E-mail: YES.

As a requirement of my master program, I had to do an internship for a period of 6 to 8 weeks, As soon as I knew about this and after we had a workshop about the basic features that this internship should include I started to search for my options.

I knew about Camphill community from one of my friends who went to this community and did a one year internship there, so I started to collect some information about this organization and I liked the idea that in this kind of organizations I can combine working directly with in-need persons and also can know more about the working in the organization with international scope.

Camphill Community is a community for people with intellectual disabilities , I started to contact Camphill Ireland at January 2016, they were so helpful and co-operative but it took them so long time to process my application , after sending all the required papers for the application I got the approval by the end of June 2016 and they offered me a place at the period from 15/07/2016 till 15/10/2016.

I started my visa application at the beginning of July 2016, the visa process took so long time that I was about to cancel my internship, so instead of starting my internship in the mid of July I started in September but the most important thing for me was to be able to complete 6 weeks as my program requires .

Upon my arrival to Ireland , Camphill Kyle offered me an accommodation in a room in one of the community guest houses , I was also granted 50 euros/ week as a pocket money for my food expenses . kyle community is located in a city called Callan around 2 hours from Dublin.

In the first two weeks I spent the whole time having introductions for all the residents, I was accompanied with one or more of the long-term volunteers there to give all the information

about the residents in this community. I usually started working at 8:00 am and finish 18:00 or even 20:00 with one day off/week. the day was very long because I usually start by going with the residents to their daily activities like treatment sessions, craft work , hydrotherapy and other activities then I would attend a workshop only for co-workers and volunteers, these workshops were mainly to train us how to deal with different types of residents and how to deal with people with disabilities in general, I had the chance to attend workshops about ( handling techniques, safeguarding and dealing with challenging behaviour ).

In the afternoon I would also accompany one of the residents in their activity till the time they go to bed.

After two weeks the national co-ordinator of Camphill Community Ireland had a meeting with me and we agreed that in the remaining 4 weeks of my internship I should spent more time working in the office , so I worked in the morning in the office and the evenings I kept accompanying the residents with their activities, basically working in the office was about reading the policies and all the action plans for the residents, I also helped in organization of the open day of the community.

Mrs.Ann Finn the national co-ordinator for camphill helped me so much, she took me to attend very important meetings like the board meeting for all camphill communities in Ireland , she also explained to me the recent changes that Camphill have to undergo as they shift from life-sharing community to more employee based community and the governmental supervision they issue now .

On the other hand I met in camphill people from all over the world, Brazil, Philippines, England and Germany. It was amazing having the opportunity to have such cultural diversion and share a lot of experiences. I also had the chance to go visit some parts of Ireland either in outings with the Camphill or by myself in my day off.

Overall it was a very rich experience, being able to combine both theory and practical work is a very good point, sometimes I had the chance to practice my basic profession as physical therapist and helped some residents with movement disabilities with therapeutic sessions , also gave my opinion about some setting structure and whether its helping those residents or needs to be modified.

Camphill community is more familiar with volunteers who want to share some time and effort and live with the residents who have some difficulties that's why I noticed that they don't have a specific plan for internships, and also they don't provide good supervision for internees, as for me I had to ask for things and that they have a certain schedule for me , in fact they are very helpful and really helped me but only for the things I said I want to do and practice not because they a plan, and that is a very important thing for anyone who thinks to go there for internship they should make sure that they are going to Camphill community for internship and not only as a volunteer and try to explain what really he/she wants to gain from this experience when they apply or when they make the application in Camphill.

A very strong point about this community is the setting and policies they always try to improve in order to help the residents, I had the chance to take a look at files of some residents and I saw how much progress they made and how the quality of life really improved because of the time they spent in Camphill.

Finally I can say that it was very good experience, my English also improved , and it was very good chance to get in touch with so many other cultures, Ireland also is a very nice country and definitely I would love to go there again.

Useful links:

official Camphill kyle website: <http://www.camphill.ie/kyle/index>

Applications and vacancies person to contact is Hayriye Yildirim,Camphill Kyle, Coolagh, Callan, Co Kilkenny, Ireland

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Signature

**Mona Ahmed**

16-11-2016, Erlangen