

International business research experience

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International Business Research Experience

Japan is a very unique country in many ways, and the histories of the long-standing companies are no exception. There is a common believe that CSR is lacking in Japan, so I was curious to find a company that exemplified what Japanese classic CSR practices are as well as innovative ones. I owe much thanks to Professor Scott Davis at Rikkyo University, as his vast knowledge of Japanese CSR practices and culture, as well as the resource she provided me were an enormous help during this process. This project was a great opportunity to deepen my understanding of Japanese CSR practices, culture and a chance to reflect and think about how these best practices could translate into the Western style of CSR.

Katlin Aarma

Sitting at a plain white desk in my new apartment, I contemplated what I had just done. Over the course of twenty-four hours, I had traveled over eight thousand kilometers to the capital city of Austria. In this strange, yet breathtakingly beautiful city, I knew nothing of the customs, I could not speak the language, and, besides two other exchange students, I knew no one. I could not keep myself from thinking, what have I done? What's more, I had to begin researching a business phenomenon within the context of this strange new country, a country to which my knowledge was limited to the First World War. The task was exciting, but daunting all at once. Throughout my research, I was able to not only glimpse into the business context of Austria, but also gain valuable insights into the culture and attitudes of the local people. I am not so naïve to say that researching a local company can give you a comprehensive understanding of a country or people, however it is an excellent start. Overall, the research process provided me with a deeper appreciation for Austria, its culture, and its incredible people.

Carson Bell

I thoroughly enjoyed the process of conducting research regarding the topic of money laundering whilst being on exchange at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland. The research process strategy I used was to gather as much credible information as time allowed. I learned that this was the best way to gain insight from various perspectives and to really become in tune with the complex issue of money laundering. Overall, the research process went very smoothly due to living abroad in a country considered to be one of the largest international financial centres in the world; resources were easy to find. Lastly, I must credit my fascination and inquisitive nature towards exploring the topic of money laundering for making my international research experience successful.

Karlina Fortier

My international research experience was easier than I had anticipated and allowed me to open up my learning experience to new perspectives. Living in Austria, while simultaneously researching their culture and work place views, gave me the opportunity to broaden my perspective and add to my research in a way that would not have been possible back in Canada. In today's globalized world it was not difficult to find information and sources for my research, however being abroad aided in my work being less biased or too narrow in focus. I would definitely recommend international research for students as it exposes you to unique experiences distinct from traditional learning.

Megan Griffin

While I was on academic exchange, I found my international research experience to be engaging and fun. The inspiration for my topic derived from when I toured a perfume factory in Grasse, France, the perfume capital of the world. I learned about the history of the perfume industry and the importance that the company Chanel brought to the industry and to the region of Grasse. I began to research the company online to gain more of a base understanding. I was able to take fashion and luxury goods management courses at SKEMA Business School, and these courses were extremely applicable to the topic of my paper. I found it interesting and useful to speak with professors in the industry, and to use their knowledge and the concepts learned in class as a source for my paper.

Andrea Jones

I'm a 4th year Bachelor of Commerce student at the Peter B. Gustavson School of Business at the University of Victoria. I wrote this paper while studying on exchange at the University of Economics, Prague. I was introduced to Pilsner Urquell on my first day in the Czech Republic when a local student greeted me at the airport with two tall cans of the beer and a Kolonada – a traditional Czech wafer filled with hazelnut or chocolate. This pairing soon becomes my late night snack of choosing for the succeeding months. I was inspired to research and write on beer, as it was a constant topic of conversation amongst Czech's along with Hockey and the cold weather. Crack open a cold one and enjoy.

Bowen Macy

Being able to do research on a company such as Volkswagen while in Germany was the best complement to my international experience. I would not have had the opportunity to work with such a globally recognized company if it had not been for this process. My favourite part of the research was my hands on experience at the Volkswagen headquarters. I was able to view the production line of the Volkswagen Golf from beginning to end and the personal opportunity solidified my interest in my research topic. While, I was very fortunate to work with Volkswagen, I know that if this opportunity did not arise I would have had to spend a lot more time researching the country.

Riley Paddock

Researching and writing about a business in China came with many challenges, however, upon completion it came with an incredible feeling of accomplishment. The greatest obstacle I faced while completing my international research was the Internet in China, which some days chose not to work at all and other days chose to work on a "selective" basis. There was an obvious lesson to be learnt from this and that was that researching China from within China comes with unique difficulties. The highlight of my research experience was my visit to the Lululemon store in Hong Kong, where I was able to witness the company's growth into a foreign market first hand. Writing a research paper while on exchange was a fantastic opportunity to leverage skills that have been under development throughout my undergraduate degree and I have come out of the experience with a piece of work I am very proud of!

Lorna E. Richards