

Congressional Intern



Name: **Danielle McCadden**
Profession: **Student, Congressional Intern**
Number of years in this line of work: **4 months as intern**
Native Language: **English**
Other Language(s): **Spanish**

1) What languages do you know? How did you learn them?

(At home, At school) I studied Spanish in school, from seventh grade through college abroad in Spain.

2) What is your profession?

Congressional Intern

3) Describe a “typical” day as a Congressional Intern. How do you use your

I have a variety of duties in the office; interns are often asked to cover tasks that staff have time to. In addition to administrative tasks, I research policy, write letters and tours of the capitol. The documents I translate into Spanish are added to the website access information regarding legislation and the work of their representative. When I tour the Capitol, I am available to talk to them.

4) What do you enjoy about it?

I like the fact that I get to work on so many different projects and meet new people. I enjoy the events going on and new topics to deal with or handle. Working on Capitol Hill is a great reaction of the public to the issues you are dealing with – there’s often television or radio doing.

5) What language do you think in? English

6) What do you think helped you the most in mastering the foreign/second

In my Junior year of college, I spent a semester at the University of Salamanca in Spain. I was fluent enough to enroll in regular courses at the University, but being immersed in Spanish was tremendously helpful. Living with a family and taking classes with Spanish students forced me to be a little intimidated, but I quickly realized that speaking was the only way to improve. I am excited and impressed that you are making an effort to learn their language, so I don't want to make a mistake. Living in a foreign-speaking country is the best way to pick up the phrases that give a language character.

7) What opportunities have knowing another language provided in your life, or otherwise?

My Spanish abilities were one of the reasons I was offered this internship. The Representative has a large Spanish-speaking population, so it's important that there are people in the office who can communicate with them.

8) If you had the time to learn another language now, what language would you choose?

I do plan to learn another language soon – studying another language opens so many doors for personal enjoyment. I've studied African history and would like to work in Africa. Swahili, languages that are spoken in large regions of the continent. I would love to learn as many languages as possible.

9) How do you think your life would have turned out if you had never learned another language?

I would not have studied abroad in a non-English speaking country, which turned out to be a great experience. Living in a Spanish speaking country taught me a lot about my own abilities and gave me the chance to talk to people from other countries gives you a new perspective on international issues.

10) In your opinion, are there more career opportunities for people who speak another language?

Definitely. I am currently applying for jobs, and on every interview I have gone on, the interviewer has asked about my Spanish ability and mentioned that the organization. The need for someone who speaks another language can come up at any time.

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11) What do you think you would be doing if you weren't a Congressional

I'm very interested in International Development and hope to pursue a career in that
been education, and I would probably be becoming a teacher if I hadn't found anoth

**12) What advice would you give to somebody who wants to be a Congress
languages they should learn?**

Virtually any language can be helpful. Spanish is certainly useful because it is so con
commonly studied language. There are fewer people in the US with competency in la
different language you are likely to be one of the few qualified candidates when a ne
arises. ;Pick a language that you want to learn, because you'll be more likely to stick
speaks that language after you complete the beginner or intermediate level. You'll re
knowledge to practical use, and pick up even more very quickly.