

For the past month I have been working at Fundación Nantik Lum, a microfinance institution located in Madrid, Spain. Nantik Lum is divided into a research department and a projects department. I spent my time under the guidance of Bárbara Jayo, head of the research department.

My days began at 9:30, when I would come into the office and usually read up on the news and review one of the many publications the research department has produced regarding microfinance in Europe and other topics. Afterwards, I would help out in the office as much as I could, whether this was filling envelopes or reading dense guidelines for applying for public funding, a key part of what allows non-profits such as Nantik Lum to function. Besides these tasks, I did basic translation and proofreading of e-mails, summaries and abstracts, and even wrote an entry on the foundation's blog. These activities allowed me to exercise my Spanish, which was one of my main objectives I hoped to achieve by working in Spain.

I found the work very satisfying and interesting. I have increased my abilities with programs such as Excel and have a better understanding of the financial activities required to keep an NGO afloat. Fundación Nantik Lum sponsors a master's program in microfinance, which I have applied for. Hopefully, I will be accepted into the program and continue my internship with Nantik Lum, perhaps securing a more steady position in the organization. Before I begin my master's, I will help out with the National Conference on Microfinance, which will bring experts on microfinance in Spain together for several days in Madrid.

My time spent with Fundación Nantik Lum has helped me to realize what I see myself doing now that I have graduated from Sewanee. The doors opened by this internship are very promising, and I am excited to see what the future holds.