

FROM IIR INTERN TO DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

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With a bachelor's and two master's degrees, Lucie was used to working part-time and interning when she applied to the internship program at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. Her degrees were in International Relations, and another in media studies from Charles University, something she says is a perfect complement to her earlier degrees.



LUCIE BOŽKOVÁ

She knew that she wanted to work in her field of study, and IIR stood out as a prestigious institution with a good reputation. What she didn't know at the time she started her internship was that she would eventually climb the ranks and join the IIR team as an employee.

AN INDEPENDENT AND SUPPORTIVE INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK

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One of the main reasons Lucie was attracted to IIR was its objectivity. While it's a highly esteemed think tank, IIR is not run by any political institution and is completely transparent about where it gets its funding. It is also home to many research centers in many different fields, including European security, EU-Asia relations, international law, energy policy and much more.

If you wish to work at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IIR is a good highlight to have on your CV, as Lucka found out. *"It was very important when I applied for an internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," she says. "The Institute is very relevant for them."*

Lucie also discovered that, in addition to producing top-quality research, IIR also provides a supportive and fair environment to its interns and employees.

“IIR puts an emphasis on gender equality, and supports both mothers and fathers incredibly well,” she says. There’s a kid’s corner at the office where employees can take their children and they offer time off for mothers and fathers who want to care for their children.

FROM INTERN TO EMPLOYEE



At the time she started at IIR, Lucka wasn’t sure if she wanted to focus on research or public relations. Luckily, her internship provided the opportunity to participate in both. Although she eventually settled with public relations, she says she still feels supported by the IIR team if she wanted to pursue research.

“They supported me when I studied my second Master’s programme,” she says. *“They would also support me if I wanted to do my Ph.D.”*



Once her internship ended, Lucie immediately noticed its benefits. Her knowledge of IIR and the contacts she made there helped her when she worked for the Czech Council on Foreign Relations and in the Foreign Affairs and Communication Department of the General Financial Directorate.

However, as soon as she saw a job opening at IIR, she jumped on it. *"It is very hard to get a job in the Institute, because everybody is so satisfied with their job that almost no one leaves,"* she says. *"My internship helped me a lot, because I was known here."*

Now as the Director of the Services Department (currently on maternity leave), Lucie gets to work with researchers every day. She particularly enjoys getting to do something new every day, from dealing with diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promoting the work of IIR's researchers. She also loves that IIR emphasizes education and has a fantastic leadership team.



"I like it as a whole. I do not even think about leaving the organization except maybe to move across the institution," she says.

Her advice to prospective IIR interns: *"The internship is not just great for your CV. You also get an opportunity to get to know yourself. If a person is proactive, they can try out a lot of different areas and save themselves from finding out after graduation that this is not what he or she really wants to do."*