

INTERN FINDS NEW PERSPECTIVES, CAREER PATH AT IIR



Prague native Natalie Jančíková was studying International Area Studies at Charles University, when she applied for an internship at the Institute of International Relations in Prague. She was curious about a possible career in research, as well as how a think tank like IIR operates.



NATALIE JANCÍKOVÁ

"In Prague there is no institute like IIR, which is prestigious and focused on international relations at the same time," she says.

"I also knew that, some of my favourite professors from the Charles University have been working for the institute."

Natalie also spent a semester at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, where she focused on the impact of modern technology on society and politics, a topic that she would delve into more during her time at IIR.

DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES



IIR's prestigious reputation might conjure images of a stuffy academic environment with old men in sweater vests and glasses buried in books and unavailable to student interns. What Natalie found was quite different.

"I was a little bit shocked how friendly the working environment is," she says. "I expected it would be a very old-school and conservative place, where everyone would behave very formal."

The international environment of the IIR also really spoke to Natalie. She was able to engage in interesting and eye-opening discussions on current events with other interns from various parts of the world.

"It felt more like a second Erasmus than work," she says. "It was especially interesting to debate politics with the other interns, because all of us came from a different part of the world and we were very passionate about everything that was going on. It often made me see things from a different perspective."

NEW CAREER GOALS

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During her internship, Natalie assisted some of the researchers in their work or at talks that were organized for the interns. *"I could work directly with the academic researchers, which gave me quite clear idea, how this kind of work looks like,"* she says.

One of her projects involved studying the concept of "hybrid warfare" in the Czech media. She continued to help with this research even after her internship ended. *"I feel I really understand much clearer how is the research done,"* she says. This project in particular helped her *"understand how the discussion on this specific topic is created in the Czech Republic."*

Her experience also allowed Natalie to refine her career path. Although she had been originally considering a career in research, her internship at IIR made her realise she prefers conference production. IIR organizes many events and conferences throughout the year, including the Prague European Summit. This experience showed Natalie where she would like to focus her professional efforts.

"I liked being a part of these big and important events," she says. *"I knew I would never be able to get to these conferences or listen to the interesting panels if I wasn't an intern at the IIR."*

Natalie also enjoyed the celebrations after the events ... *"when all of us went together to a pub."*