



BLACK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

My time in England

Antonio Morente Navajas

(27th September 2010 – 17th December 2010)



**Case Study
Report**

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE BLACK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



SOMETHING ABOUT ME

My name is Antonio Morente Navajas. I am 24 years old; I come from Andalucía, a region in southern Spain and I have been doing an internship at the BDA for the last three months within the Leonardo Da Vinci programme. This programme enables people to train abroad, usually in another European country. It is very attractive to young people who can gain new skills, knowledge and qualifications, and improve their language skills as well. To sum up, this programme tries to make better the overall competitiveness of the European labour market. It permits more mobility opportunities.

In June 2010 I finished my double degree in Business, Management and Law and felt like putting my knowledge into practice.

I applied for Leonardo Da Vinci programme because I consider it is an excellent opportunity. It seems to me that working and living abroad is very interesting, you can acquire and enhance new skills and competences, both professional and personal. Nevertheless, this is not my first time abroad, since I was living and studying as an Erasmus student in Brussels (Belgium) for one year, during the 2008/2009 Academic Year.

WHY LdV?



Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci

WHY BDA?

Before coming here all Leonardo participants had an interview with the intermediary organization, in my case European Training Services.



I told them that I was interested in doing my internship in the third sector that is a non-profit organization or a social enterprise. That's why, I arrived to the BDA.

WORKING AT THE BDA

Firstly, working at the BDA means working in a multicultural scenario. People have different backgrounds, different cultures and traditions, and profess several religions. Everyone is welcomed at the BDA because a mutual respect and tolerance are essential. Moreover, working at BDA has allowed me to realise that we are World citizens and we should try to get a more work and social integration, to bring together people from all walks of life to understand and learn about each other. I strongly believe that BDA does some fantastic work within Bristol such as tackling social exclusion, empowering BME communities and supporting them through a wide range of activities and events. In short, providing a voice for underrepresented parts of the communities.



I have been working at BDA for three months and every day has been a learning experience. I have tried many different activities. On one hand, I was supporting in administrative tasks, written articles for Kontakt magazine, and helping in the organization with events. I have carried out accountancy activities in the finance department and I have been helping to update and upload information onto the new BDA webpage (www.blackdeva.org.uk).

BDA has given me the chance to attend and participate in different meetings, for instance BDA's AGM, Board meeting, COBG Network meeting, Voscur's AGM. I also took part in a City of Sanctuary Demonstration on behalf of BDA on the 16th November 2010. All these things were particularly exciting for me because I had the opportunity to know much more about how a charity organization functions within UK, especially Bristol and West of England.



One of my favourite things about this experience was the work ambience, the daily life in the office. I felt absolutely comfortable at BDA. All my colleagues were friendly, respectful and very welcoming and tried to involve me in their projects. From my very first day at work all staff



considered me part of the team and I was never bored or isolated. If anything, the opposite, I really enjoyed a lot every day. There were good feelings among all people that I met. I would like to thank all staff for having put your trust in me. Working with all of you was very active and communicative; I spent extremely good times every day. In my opinion, socializing was crucial during my Leonardo experience.



The Leonardo Da Vinci experience does not mean just working, living abroad means much more. That's why; I went sightseeing in and around Bristol. I visited to Bristol Old Vic, The Tobacco Factory, and I attended the Latino Film Festival at The Brewery.



One of the most exciting things that I have done in Bristol was participating in a radio programme at Ujima Radio. It was terrific! Many thanks Rev Palmer!



Last but not least, I would like to add that living in Bristol, working with wonderful people, improving a foreign language, discovering different cultures, knowing more about different ways of living was absolutely amazing. I am very grateful to BDA to have given me this great opportunity. I am completely convinced that it was a rewarding experience.

Thank you so very much!