

**Promos report**

**Internship place: University of British Columbia, Vancouver**

**Department of pathology (Cytogenetic)**

**Women and Children hospital**

**01.10 - 06.12.2013**

## Before Canada

I am a master student of the Infection biology program. I knew from the first semester (or even before I start my master program) that I would have to do two internships during the third semester. This was a very good opportunity for us to see how work in a real laboratory is.

Since I was a child I used to travel a lot and travelling is one of my favorite hobbies. To have two things that I love - science and traveling- at the same time gave me this idea to do one of my internships abroad. I had some friends who studied also at our university and went abroad for internships and they all recommended I do the same. They informed me also about promos and I went to the international office of the university and asked them if I would have a chance to get the promos. The friendly woman at the office smiled back at me and I knew that I should try.

So I decided to do the first internship abroad. I have many family members and good old friends from my school in Iran, who live in Canada. I always heard good things about Canada like the landscape, ocean, universities and nice people. Because Canada is far away and expensive, I never had a chance to visit the country, so I thought I should try and apply for Canada. Why not?

My favorite subject during my study time was always human genetics. After searching on the Internet and asking my professors about existing universities there, I decided to apply for an Internship at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver (UBC). I have to say that I was lucky! A professor from the Genetics department of the UBC replied my first application in a week and forwarded my email to one of her colleges who was looking for an intern student. After several emails and sending my CV and three references, I got accepted. It was easier than I thought or maybe I am just a lucky girl!

The next step was applying for the visa. After gathering and translating my documents the visa process went fast. I had my visa and ticket four months before my trip. As I mentioned before, I have some family members (my aunt) in Canada, so I do not have to worry about the accommodation there.

## In Canada

**This country is huge! My first impression was that everything and partly people are huge. There are so many foreigners there, which make the country multicultural. I never saw any conflict between different people although they come from different cultures with different religions and believes. They are respectful, nice and polite people. I would call Canada, a country which gives you many opportunities to create a better future.**

**The nature of this country is amazing and so beautiful. It's enough to say that Vancouver is probably the most beautiful city in the world. Mountains surround the city, it is on the pacific and it is located in the middle of two inlets.**

**About the main goal of my journey: the internship, I have to say that was a really good experience. I always wanted to know how the science world works in America and Canada. I got lucky because there were some students at the lab, who explained to me a lot from their study time and how their projects look like. I had two nice tutors who helped me. My main supervisor was a really nice and kind woman, who actually invited us all to her place at the end of my internship, which was also my birthday. Because the institute was located near the hospital I worked part time on clinical projects, which was good to get an idea of how science and medicine work together. These 3 months helped me a lot with my English language, because everyone spoke native English at the lab and I always had to communicate in English.**

**During these 3 months I met a lot of people who made me laugh and happy. I had a chance to see another part of the world and combined this journey with my studies. I just have to say that if you have a chance to do this, which you do thanks to the promos program, do not let it get away. DO IT!**