

Internship Report in the United States of America

During my six-week internship in the United States, I had the opportunity to gain valuable medical experience while also immersing myself in American culture. My internship took place in three different cities: Milwaukee, Chicago, and New York. Each location provided unique insights into the healthcare system, medical practice, and daily life in the U.S.

In Milwaukee, I worked within a large hospital system that operates multiple hospitals of different sizes. This allowed me to observe and compare the workings of various emergency departments. I had the chance to shadow both physicians and physician assistants (PAs) in the emergency room, where I learned about a wide range of medical conditions and treatment options. Additionally, I gained a deeper understanding of the structure of the American healthcare system, including the roles and responsibilities of different medical professionals.

A key part of my experience in Milwaukee was living with a medical family. The PA I had met prior to my trip welcomed me into her home, where I also had the chance to learn from her husband, who is a pharmacist. This environment gave me a unique perspective on both clinical practice and pharmaceutical aspects of patient care. She also introduced me to her colleagues and friends at work, which allowed me to observe different specialties and learn from various healthcare professionals. Thanks to her, I had the opportunity to follow multiple experts in different fields, gaining hands-on experience and witnessing various approaches to patient care.

During my time in Milwaukee, I was also warmly welcomed into a diverse group of medical professionals, including physicians, PAs, nurses, techs, and paramedics. This allowed me to gain insights into different roles within the healthcare system and understand how interdisciplinary teams work together in emergency and inpatient care. I was able to observe the daily routines in the hospital, including emergency cases, ward rounds, surgeries, postoperative treatment, and the management of patients with complex multi-organ problems.

After my time in Milwaukee, I traveled to Chicago and then flew to New York, where I continued my internship in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit of a hospital. Here, I worked closely with PAs and observed their role in a highly specialized medical setting. This experience gave me insights into postoperative care for complex heart and lung surgeries, ventilator management, and critical care protocols. It was fascinating to see how a multidisciplinary team operates in such a high-intensity environment.

A particularly exciting experience was meeting a team from Flying for Life, an organization that provides medical transport and emergency care to remote areas. Learning about their work and dedication was truly inspiring, as it highlighted the importance of medical accessibility and the challenges faced by healthcare providers in underserved regions.

One of the most impressive aspects of my internship was seeing how well physician assistants are integrated into the American healthcare system. In the U.S., the entire population is familiar with this profession, and PAs are highly respected. They play a crucial role in patient care and take on a great deal of responsibility, often working independently while collaborating closely with physicians. It was inspiring to learn from them and to witness their expertise and confidence in their work. This level of recognition and responsibility for PAs would be highly beneficial in Germany as well. Seeing how essential and well-established their role is in the U.S. has strengthened my belief in the importance of our profession. It has also motivated me to do my best to reach a similar level of expertise and contribute to the development and recognition of PAs in Germany.

Conclusion

This internship was an incredibly valuable and transformative experience for me. It not only deepened my medical knowledge but also allowed me to see firsthand how healthcare is practiced in a different system. I was able to learn from experienced professionals, improve my language skills, and gain new perspectives on patient care.

I am extremely grateful for the financial support that made this experience possible. Without it, I would not have been able to take part in such a unique and enriching opportunity. This internship has confirmed my passion for medicine and has broadened my perspective on international healthcare. The knowledge and experiences I gained will undoubtedly influence my future career. Seeing the level of recognition that PAs receive in the U.S. has reinforced my commitment to this profession, and I am determined to do everything I can to contribute to its growth in Germany. I am truly thankful for everyone who supported me on this journey and for the amazing people I met along the way.



