

Internship

James: Ok Jessica, I gather you're about to travel to England, to Liverpool, I think, and looking for a job in some sort of social work.

Jessica: Yes, I am.

James: Yeah, perhaps you could tell me what you've done in this field already in the states?

Jessica: Ok, well, during university I did a few internships.

James: I beg you a pardon, internships? What are they?

Jessica: Internships are job... job training almost. Your university will give you a list of places that work with the school, and you're placed in these, eh...whether it be an agency or company of some kind, and you work there for certain amount of hours, maybe a semester. Just to gain experience in the field.

James: So this is part of your university course?

Jessica: Yes.

James: Um-hum, eh, if I can just ask, you were at university in the states for how long?

Jessica: Four years.

James: Four years, um-hum.

Jessica: Yes, right after high-school.

James: Right, yeah.

Jessica: Yeah.

James: So you had two or three of these internships, did you?

Jessica: I did. My favorite was working at the Ronald McDonald house.

James: I beg you a pardon, the McDonald's.....

Jessica: It's called the Ronald McDonald house.

James: Ok.

Jessica: And, yeah, and what it is, is eh...it is a house for families when they have a child

sick in the hospital.

James: Um-hum.

Jessica: And the families and the kid...if.....and the child also, if he... he or she is able, is able to stay at this house, and everything is taken care of, food is provided, and counseling is there, and eh..... So I did a lot of work there, with the families, a little musical therapy with some of the kids, the siblings that are there. Eh, as well as just counseling, and just being there for the parents, talking to them about any issue that might come up. Also visiting the hospital, visiting the children and keeping their spirits up, that's what it's all about.

James: Sounds interesting. And the children were in the Ronald McDonald house, is that the name? For what? Two or three weeks, or maybe longer sometimes?

Jessica: It varied, we had families and children there for a night, and there was one little boy who was getting treatment off and on for over a year, so...yeah, it really varies, yeah.

James: So that was one of them.

Jessica: Yes, that was one of them.

James: Your favorite, you said.

Jessica: Yes, it was my favorite.

James: Yeah, yeah.

Jessica: Eh, I also worked at an agency. It was a small agency, eh, near my university, which housed pregnant teens.

James: Um-hum.

Jessica: Eh, which was very interesting. They didn't like me at first, hehe. Because, here I was, this girl going to college, I had, you know, what seemed to be, to them, had a lot going for me, and I would show up and try to counsel them, and you know...give them some childcare advice, and they did not want to hear it from me, hehe... I think I was a little too close in age.

James: Yeah.

Jessica: But, we did have some young girls, about thirteen, that were pregnant, and I was there for a couple of the births, and just after. Eh, these kids had a hard time.

James: Um-hum. Were these teens who chose not to live at home, or for one reason couldn't live at home with their families?

Jessica: Every story is different. A lot were very low income families, so a lot of times they were kicked to the street, and found their way to this agency.

James: This was in a town or city, was it?

Jessica: It was in a small city, yes, yes.

James: Right. Ok, yeah, so you've had a lot of variety so far, but there's one more I think you had?

Jessica: Yes, I worked at a daycare which eh... I always seem to be close to hospitals.... It was a daycare for doctors and nurses that worked in this one hospital, for their children.

James: Um-hum.

Jessica: So it was run sort of as a twentyfour hour daycare, although most of the kids were just there during the day, but if, you know, the parents were working nightshifts they could be there as well. I worked there during the day, it was just like an average daycare, nursery school kind of setup, where I did some, as I was learning in class about cognitive development, and eh...

James: About what? Sorry.

Jessica: Cogni..... eh..... about different.... how children developed. At what age they should, you know, be able to hold a bottle, or, you know, understand certain concepts.

James: I see. That was the theory you were learning, yeah.

Jessica: Yes, I was learning the theory, and practicing it, at this daycare.

James: That sounds good, yeah. Good, and then after four years you got your university degree?

Jessica: Yes.

James: Where was the university by the way?

Jessica: It was in... it was called the University of Delaware, and it was a middle-sized school with about eighteen thousand students, undergraduate.

James: Um-hum.

Jessica: So, yeah.

James: And now you are shortly going to live in England?

Jessica: Yes, I have to move.

James: Liverpool, I believe is the place, um-hum.

Jessica: Yes it is. Yes it is.

James: Right, have you been to Liverpool before? Looking for a house, or anything, a place to live?

Jessica: I've been, I've visited it a few times with my fiancé, and that's where he's from, which is why I'm moving. So, I have been there a few times, and looking for a house.

James: Jessica, it's been very interesting talking to you, and good luck with your search for a job in Liverpool, I'm sure you'll find one.

Jessica: Thank you so much.