



RISING STARS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE

A.F., A.C., L.L.I.S.D.S.



Young women in institutions

Anna, Alba, Lassalet and Sandra tell us what it's like to do a training stay at the government institutions of Andorra.

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During the summers, the government institutions of Andorra chose some university students to carry out training stays to support the civil servants in their many and varied tasks and functions, at the same time that the institutions provide a great work experience added value to the various young people who work within the Executive during the summer. From El Periòdic d'Andorra, we have interviewed four of these interns who have been working and learning in the different bodies of the Government of Andorra this summer. They are Anna Fornsubirà, Alba Capdevila, Lassalet López and Sandra De Sousa, who will tell us what day-to-day life is like in the Government's public institutions, what they have been able to learn at this stage and what young people can contribute to the public function.

Anna is a Master's student in International Law, specializing in European Union (EU) law and minoring in European social law, in Toulouse. Anna has done two internships within the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, at the Andorran embassy in Paris and in the capital, where she has been in the Bilateral and Consular Affairs department and then in the International Legal Affairs department. The young interim has always wanted to work in an international environment and considered that the best place to be able to do this in Andorra was at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs itself. In her words: «**For me, it was an opportunity to see how our small country relates to the international scene.**»

On the other hand, Alba has finished her law degree in Barcelona and will do a master's degree in European law in Milan next year. During this summer, Alba had the opportunity to spend a training period at the Secretariat of State for Relations with the European Union, where she was able to work on the process of drawing up and negotiating the Agreement 'Association with the European Union that Andorra is carrying out. Alba explained that «last year, when I was in the Ministry (of Foreign Affairs) in the legal department, I started thinking that I didn't like law. But I realized that what I liked was European law», thanks to those internships. And this past summer, she was able

to continue developing in this area at the State Secretariat.

Lassalet is 19 years old and has finished the second year of the International Trade with Languages degree in Paris, so that she can soon do a master's degree in international relations and diplomacy. That is why the opportunity to do a training stay this summer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the perfect opportunity to continue learning in the fields in which she is studying, since «**I chose this degree because I wanted to combine what I like (international relations, diplomacy and geopolitics) with what I'm good at (languages)**»

Sandra is a student of Political Science and Law at Pompeu Fabra University and has been working at the Ministry of the Presidency, Economy, Labor and Housing. Looking for internships with the help of her parents for this summer, Sandra sent a curriculum to the mi-

The four students emphasize their development during their stay

nistry where, after having an interview with Minister Marsol, she was selected to carry out the training stay. Sandra explained that «**I wanted to look for something that interested me for the future and that I could validate with (university) internships... When I was offered to be in the ministry, I found it very interesting and, moreover, related to what I am studying.**»

The day-to-day life within the Andorran institutions, according to our protagonists, is very busy and requires great skill to adapt to all kinds of tasks with the maximum possible performance. Anna began her workdays, both at the embassy and at the ministry, by reading the day's press, so that she could be well informed about everything that was happening, both in the country and abroad, and try to be in contact with the social reality with which she will work for the rest of the day. At the ministry, a first morning meeting was held to plan the tasks that would be carried out throughout the day. On the other hand, Alba remembers arriving at the Secretary of State at a very busy time, as a new round of negotiations with the EU was taking place at the beginning of this summer. In her

words, «**when I arrived, half the team was in Brussels and everything was very dynamic, there were many meetings every week and I was already told that I took the best month... then, when the Secretary of State returned, he gave me a task to do throughout the month**», which consisted of gathering information to prepare Andorra's proposals for the association agreement with the European Union in order to respect Andorran specificities. According to Lassalet, the daily routine within the ministry was very diverse and demanding. Lassalet commented that «**every day is anything but monotonous. Every day is different and unpredictable, no two are the same, you learn a lot, but you have to be focused**». Finally, Sandra emphasized the versatility with which her routine developed. The interim explained that «**I help with what they need or what they say. Also, to other departments, such as Commerce, that if they need any help, I am delighted ... One day I was invited to an Economic and Social Council, and the next day I had to organize Commerce documents, another maybe help to draw up the budget, and thus also learn how it is drawn up.**»

These training stays are a great

opportunity for female students to be able to train in a real professional environment, acquiring skills and abilities while carrying out value-added tasks within the public service. Anna highlighted from her practices «**the versatility and skills of all the ministry's workers. All the knowledge they have in languages, in international relations, in geopolitics, international culture... It was very interesting to see all this**». On the other hand, Alba declared that «**what surprised me the most, I liked it, in the first week, to see, in a video conference, the Secretary of State negotiating with the European Union. Although at university you take negotiation courses and things like that, you don't quite live it 100%. And experiencing the (negotiation) strategies, which the Secretary of State does in an exceptional way, has served me as a great example in case I ever want to dedicate myself to arbitration or things like that**». Lassaletth wanted to emphasize the fact that her training stay was an excellent opportunity to put into practice her knowledge in the linguistic field. The interim explained that «**I study international trade with languages, and I have been able to use languages a lot every day of these practices. Either through translations, the texts of the agreements in English or French, or by calling embassies**». Finally, Sandra valued the fact of the «**contrast with which I have studied very focused in Catalonia or Spain. Here I am delving deeper into what Andorra's politics are and how everything is organized here. In the end, I think it's so different**». The interim emphasizes that of her tasks within the ministry that «**all this has helped me to see all the points that exist in each ministry from a global point of view**».

Within the institutions, the more senior officials take it upon themselves to help and teach the interims, while relying on them to delegate value-added tasks and take note of the young perspective on the various initiatives being undertaken. they carry out Anna has thanked the patience shown by her more experienced superiors, which has allowed her to learn and develop. Anna emphasized that she believes that «**what the youth can bring are new ideas. I think that, as we study abroad, we can give a different view of things because of what we see and what we experience in neighboring countries**». Alba emphasized the good synergy and good atmosphere



Anna Fornsubirà
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Lassaletth López
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

«Every day is anything but monotonous, every day is different and unpredictable, no two days are the same and you learn a lot»



Alba Capdevila
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE EU

«I didn't imagine it would be so top, and above all they look at everything in detail»



Sandra De Sousa
PRESIDENCY, ECON., LABOR AND HOUSING

«When you see all the work that has to be done, you are aware that it is a job that you have to be very prepared for»

in the secretary of state, a fact that occurs in a certain young and fresh atmosphere, which helped the fact that the young woman could develop more easily. The interim explained that «**they made it very easy for me to deal with and very pleasant. They are people in their 30s and 40s, but I don't consider them very old either. That must have made us get along**». In addition, Alba also highlighted the fact that «**I was asked and I also gave my opinion a lot as a young person, as a student and as a citizen. Then, I think this can also help**», in addition to being surprised to feel very listened to by the whole team, something for which she feels very grateful. Lassaletth highlighted the fact that, in an environment of such demands and with so much work, «**the most veterans did not always have much time and took some time for us to see how we are doing, if we had things to do, take time to include us**». In addition, she considers

that young people like her «**we can and have helped them in many tasks, to ease their work, etc**». Sandra mentioned the role played by her superior, Leticia, and by the whole team, who «**helped me a lot with the arrangements with the university, and when I was in the ministry, apart from being able to do work and to help them (the officials), they have all tried to make the work I can do useful, that it has a value for which I am studying. They have helped me to be busy at all times and to learn while I am doing my internship**», highlighting the added value of carrying out this type of stay.

Interns, after discovering all the work that is carried out within the institutions, end up understanding more about how public projects are carried out, as well as empathizing more with the work of civil servants. Anna mentioned that she has been able to become aware of the difficulties that must be overcome

«**from the legal department (of Foreign Affairs), such as how long the procedures are, for example, to adhere to an international agreement or also the time it takes to get to a project like the partnership agreement, which we've had for eight years and it's a very long procedure**». In addition, the interim emphasized that «**in all the projects that are being carried out now, I felt quite included because many of the programs we were doing are for young people or students**». Alba highlights the great professionalism and exactingness with which they worked, according to her, claiming that «**I didn't imagine it would be so top, and above all they look at everything in great detail. It's like a very careful job, the people who work at the Secretary of State are very perfectionist, they look at everything down to the last detail**», in addition to «**requiring a lot of sacrifice**». Finally, she mentioned that «**they are very clear that they see**

Andorra as a whole and I feel completely identified». Lassaletth emphasized that, given the large volume of work on various and important topics, she was surprised by «**the speed with which some tasks are done, the amount and diversity of work. Almost all the tasks they do are related to the population, young people, women, etc**». Finally, Sandra pointed out that «**I see control and that everything has supervision, it's normal, they are important issues such as, for example, the budget, which is a lot of money that must be controlled and see where it goes. It's something you think about, but when you see it, you're aware that it's a job that you have to be very focus and ready to want to do it**».

The interims have had some good practices and none of them rule out dedicating themselves to this world in the future, in one way or another. ≡

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