

Spain

PEOPLE AT SWORD
Inter(n)VIEW

Jonathan & Wail



Hi I am Wail, I am 22 years old and a human resource student at University College PXL in Hasselt, Belgium.

My hobbies are watching football (I am a major FC Barcelona fan ;)) and I like going on holiday and chilling at the beach.

Hi my name is Jonathan, and I am a student application development.

I love chess, going to the gym, meeting new people (at a bar for example ;)). I also like music, NBA basketball and exploring new places, especially beaches.



What do they have in common you ask? Both were interns at our Barcelona office of Sword Spain.

Let's see what they have been up to in the last 3 months!

1. What is your internship project?

Wail: “There are 2 different things that I am doing during my internship. On one hand, my project is to help the department of human resources. Tasks can be anything from organising team building activities, arranging onboarding, reviewing how employees experience their first day, ... On the other hand, I have my Bachelor paper. It is on employer branding and representation on social media to attract new possible employees.”

Jonathan: “The work I did for my bachelor paper and my daily tasks were basically the same. I worked on an existing Angular application. My main task was to recreate this in React and make improvements to the existing code. This can be things like resolving bugs or cleaning up the code. I also did some work on improving how to scale the application and how to use caching and load-balancing. This was also my research from my bachelor paper.”

2. How do you spend most days?

Wail: “During the workweek, I pass the cafeteria on my way to work for 2 croissants and a cortado. Only then I can start working. I have a lot of flexibility on how to schedule my time, which I really appreciate. How my day looks and what I work on can vary day to day, if I want to work on my Bachelor paper or on other HR related tasks for the office. This flexibility and responsibility I get is possible because I am in close contact with Magda, my mentor and HR Operations Coordinator.

There is only 1 thing that stays the same each day, and that is having lunch with my colleagues.

When I finish work, I go grocery shopping, I relax and at 8 I cook with my roommates and hang out with them until I go to sleep.”

2. How do you spend most days?

Jonathan: “A workday for me always starts with a daily meeting with the team. I talk about what I did, if I am stuck, and what I am doing that day. When I get stuck, I can always get help from my colleagues, this time is one of the quickest ways to get a solution.

At lunch I almost always go to one spot that has good food which was recommended by a colleague. When I get back, I work mostly until 6 in the evening. This work is the one I mentioned before where I work on an actual application and software that will be in use. My Fridays are reserved for working on the bachelor paper.

In the evening, it depends, sometimes I go to the gym, grocery shopping, watching Netflix, to a bar, or seeing new friends.”

3. Tell us about your first days

Wail: “It was very good. I was a bit scared for the communication and for understanding each other as my level of English before was not that good. But as soon as I arrived, I immediately felt that everyone was so kind and caring that I was comfortable enough to speak. We went out for lunch on the first day and they already integrated me into the group.

What I appreciated the most was the email I received 2 days before the start with all the info for the first day. The starting hour, the schedule of the day, ... that way I was able to prepare a bit and knew what to expect which made me less nervous.”



3. Tell us about your first days

Jonathan: “Beforehand, I had no idea what to expect of my time in Barcelona. Living there or going on a holiday is also a very different experience, doing laundry, grocery shopping, ...

The email 2 days before was indeed a pleasant surprise, I knew that they didn't forget about me. The welcome of everyone in the office was so heartwarming. I was shown to my desk where I would be working for the next 3 months, and I met with my mentor.

After that I also met with my team, got more information about my assignment and the expectations of the following months. This time was also used for lots of questions that I had regarding the project and my tasks and how I could schedule it all with my bachelor paper. After the first day everything was clear, and I knew I would have a good time”

4. Why Barcelona? Why Sword Spain

Wail: “It was never a question where I would go do my internship. It had to be in Spain, and preferably in Barcelona. I have always loved the city and the people ever since I was a little kid. Especially as I am a big supporter of FC Barcelona.

I did multiple messages on LinkedIn to see if there is anyone in my network that knew a Spanish company where I could do an internship. I think I sent about 30 to 40 emails but no luck. I never got any reply. Then I was connected to Lotte by my network on LinkedIn, who is a project manager for Sword Spain. She told me to send an email and I was so happy that I got a fast reply. I am very grateful for them as I was almost at the end of my tether.

And that’s how I ended up here!”



4. Why Barcelona? Why Sword Spain

Jonathan: “For me it was very simple. I had been in Spain before, in Valencia and I liked it very much. I was looking through the list of options and checked the website and social media of the companies and when I saw it, it seemed like a very nice place to work at. It seemed to me a good combination of a fun place but also somewhere where I can also learn because in the end that’s also a big aspect of the internship”

5. What from your studies could you put to use here in the internship?

Wail: “I had already learned a lot of HR and employer branding. I just had the exams right before the internship so I could use all the information from those courses and actually put them in action.

What I learned from this internship is that I want to enjoy the work I do. Here people don't come to work to just clock their hours needed as quickly as possible and that's it, they enjoy a longer lunch with colleagues, do an afterwork activity, and enjoy the time they spend together while working. It can change your perspective on work when you enjoy the time at the office.”

5. What from your studies could you put to use here in the internship?

Jonathan: “I already had experience working with Angular and React from my studies, but I improved them a lot. I learned how to deploy a project in Jenkins which is really cool. In general people really helped me on how to improve the code with best practices or comments. I could put all the theoretical information into practice.

I also learned to ask questions. In the beginning I didn't dare to disturb anyone, and I wasted time trying to figure something out. But later I realised that it is better to ask questions, they can help me and when I am not stuck, I can get a lot more work done. So, in the end this is also better for them and for the project.”

**Safe to say they
absolutely enjoyed
their time in our
Barcelona office and
learned a lot!**

