

Internship ICOMOS final report

Activities during the traineeship

My arrival at the ICOMOS went very smoothly. I have been welcomed very warmly by my supervisor who first introduced me to the general team of ICOMOS before introducing me to the team where I spent my entire time. The first day they explained me how everything was working inside the company, how they organized their work and schedules. They also presented the list of tasks I will have to realize over the following 6 months under the supervision of the different people working in the World Heritage Unit. Therefore, since my first day there, everything was clear about what will be my role and tasks inside the Unit. In plus, all the team was very helpful and gave advices and help for any inquiries. They offered a lot of support to the interns and welcome them very warmly.

In term of work, they presented and detailed any new tasks I would have to achieve very carefully before letting me the opportunity to organize my work as I wished.

I first arrived at the end of this year's nominations cycle. Therefore, I had the chance to review the evaluation done by ICOMOS regarding the nominations to UNESCO World Heritage in 2024. My tasks consisted in checking the information present in the report done by ICOMOS, assuring that everything said was correct. In a second time, I also helped to review the translation of these documents both in French and English. I also helped to prepare working documents for the 46th Session of the WH Committee such as the power point presenting the different sites submitted for recognition by UNESCO.

Afterward, I helped ICOMOS for the 2025 nomination cycle. In this regard, I research international experts to be consulted in the desk review process where they gave their opinion if the site should be added to the WHList or not. Once these experts have been identified and approved, I had the chance to collaborate to the follow-up of the desk review process. Thus, I had the chance to prepare their invitation letter, to contact them, assure the process follow-up responding to any inquiries they could have until the reception of their reports. Link to this expert's research, I contributed to a database identifying the expert who already helped ICOMOS through different tasks to establish their competences and make the future expert research easier and faster. At the same time, I prepared synthesis notes on each site's nomination facilitating the desk review expert research. Still in the 2025 cycle framework, I prepared the power points for the presentation of the different nominations to the November panel which evaluate a first time the site applying for recognition. I also wrote a format for the request of International Assistance request.

During my time at ICOMOS, I had the opportunity to approach and deal with the new step of the Preliminary Assessment implemented from this year for UNESCO World Heritage List recognition. Therefore, I helped the team to prepare the first panel and first evaluations as well as taking notes of this meeting.

Lately, I also collaborate to upstream task which consisted of research for international expert who would be able to evaluate the site for a potential submission for recognition to UNESCO. I also did bibliographic research on these sites.

Overall, I am very happy of my work results during this internship. I felt useful for the organization. More specifically, I am very happy to have been able to observe from the inside their functioning. This gave me a good view of what were the specific tasks of ICOMOS, who were their main collaborators and how they were dividing the work. Additionally, this gave me a better idea of what I like in World Heritage sector, how I would like to contribute to the World Heritage preservation and in what I would like to dedicate my future career. What I appreciated the most during this internship is the follow-up of a specific task. For the desk review process, I could help from the beginning by researching name of experts until the end of the process when they sent back their opinions on the nomination proposals. I very much appreciated the fact to be able to follow all the steps of this process and take part of it. In plus, following the email process for more than 400 people contacted was very challenging and very satisfactory to succeed.

During all the time of my internship, I had the chance to observe how useful I was and how achieving my tasks were useful to the organization. My supervisors also seemed to be happy of my work.

Acquisition of practical skills and reflection on the traineeship

The ICOMOS was very welcoming and a very nice host institution. The explanations of the tasks were clear and straightforward. Since other interns were welcomed at the same time, the atmosphere was very pleasant to be in. The colleagues were also very helpful in any regards, giving advice and tips for daily life as well.

Quite fast after my arrival, I was able to manage my own tasks and decide of the appropriate timing to realize them. I also had different tasks to do at the same time letting me the opportunity to be independent and work on my own, helping the Unit whenever they needed extra help on specific works. The only drawback of the institution was maybe the lack of feedback. I was always thanks for the work I've done but didn't receive many comments on what I did or what I could improve.

My experience in this company was very satisfying as I have been welcomed very warmly and integrated quickly to the team. My expectations have been met as I was able to work for an international organization taking care of the World Heritage and learn more about its classification process. This experience even outperforms my expectations as it gave me a better idea of what I like to deal with in Heritage and in what I would like to dedicate my future career. The last feedback from the company was very satisfying as they seemed to be happy of my work and help there.

Regarding my knowledge and skills acquired, I principally deepen my knowledge about the evaluation procedure of the sites for recognition on the World Heritage List of UNESCO. I also learnt the functioning of ICOMOS, how they divided their work and what are their specific tasks. Moreover, ICOMOS being a non-governmental organization, I had the chance to observe the functioning of such organism. It gave me a better overview of the task hold by ICOMOS as well as the other Advisory bodies. Lastly, what I very much appreciated is the opportunity to work in an international and multi-cultural environment.