

Professional Development for Sports Industry Placement

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1. Summary

As an introduction, in part A, I will focus on the placement research and identification of a suitable placement that meets the requirements of the programme pathway, by identifying the placement benefits according to Esther Haag, a consideration of a placement rational, and an analysis and evaluation of each placement opportunity, including Sporting Opportunities, Ales, SWEP, Rockley, I love tour, Travellers worldwide and challenger.

Later, I will deepen in a personal report including qualification audit, training needs analysis, a personal development plan with a personal analysis, setting goals and personal objectives, a curriculum vitae and a cover letter, and a pre-placement review.

2. Part A

Introduction

My name is Pablo Elipe, I am 20 years old and I was born in Spain, during all my life I have been passionate about sports and physical exercise I have also been practising all types of sports since a young age, such as: Rugby, football, basketball, tennis, surf, mountain climbing, etc. For me sports are a fundamental part in people's life due to an improvement in health, lifestyle and social skills. That is why I decided to start studying sports management in UWTSD. As a matter of fact, I would like to deepen in a coaching Placement program. I am interested in expanding my knowledge by creating competitions and events for the children in order to apply these techniques to sports events agencies. Apart from working I would like as well to see the world and experience a foreign culture. I planned my placement considering a placement rationale which includes the ones that can provide me more benefits and finally an analysis and evaluation of different placement opportunities within organizations.

I started by questioning myself about the placement criteria according to my degree program. Such as the length that my placement is going to take which in the case of my chosen placements is between 2 and 3 months, where do I want to go which in my case as I'm international I will have to go abroad to places like France, USA, south Africa, Canarias, etc. Which is the placement that is going to provide me more knowledge and skills. I have also taken into consideration a financial point of view, because extra costs of placements abroad compared with a placement in the country that you are living are rather obvious: travel expenses, rent, living expenses, visas, extra insurances and sometimes vaccinations. That's why I have planned it in a way in which I can afford most of my placements (Haag, 2008).

Once I get used familiar and orientated with content-related criteria, I faced with the question of what I want my placement to include. That's why I have done a self-analysis spending time on figuring out who really I am and what are my wishes. First, by knowing what my abilities are and what role I want in the labour market to be. So, for this I have taken a close look on my personality. In this way I will be able to know what kind of tasks I prefer to do, and which sectors or companies fit my characteristics and wishes (Haag, 2008). I have taken into consideration which sector of the sports management industry do I want to choose, and I have decided between coaching sports and managing events. Moreover, I will have to choose between a profit organization and a non-profit organization.

I have been looking to different coaching programs that can provide me the benefits of team work and gain vocational experience in the sports industry and sports charity sector, such as Sporting Opportunities, Ales, SWEP, Rockley, I love tour, Travellers worldwide and challenger which are organisations that organised many sports placements through many different places, among those I am interested in South Africa, Australia, Italy, Croatia, Prague, USA and Spain (Canary islands).

Looking at the benefits that placement provides, I have used the ones explained by Stephen and Gwen (2008) and take the fundamental things I can achieve from the mentioned researched placements, first, doing a placement within these organisations will provide me with loads of new experience such as knowledge, work ethics and skills. I will also gain advantage in the job market because these organisations encourage leadership, teamwork, social skills and problem solve ability, this will give me the facility to create an international network which will provide me future contacts. Moreover, I will learn to work independently in a foreign country which will open my mind. Finally, the placement will give me

international experience to my CV which has an important value to companies showing that you have done a placement abroad (Haag, 2008).

South Africa is one of the places I have always aimed to go, due to my desire to help people with social and economic problems, and by choosing Sporting Opportunities I could help them through sports which is a good way to escape from those social problems. Furthermore, this will also give me the opportunity to coach in another culture and gain more ability in management and expand my knowledge from another perspective of life (Sporting opportunities, 2018). The negative thing is the violence that there is now a days in the country, which is an impediment according with the degree risk assessment (Ramaphosa, 2019).

Australia and Fiji are another of my placement plans which I have been looking at, these placements will as well help me to open my mind in another cultural society. They suit me a good coaching plan in which I must adapt to all types of sports. By doing this placement I will gain new skills, more confidence and invaluable personal and professional development (Travellers Worldwide, 2019).

Rockley is a big company founded in 1976 which promote mainly water sports placements within UK and France. Going to France is an option that I have it in mind because they told us that during the stance we will be living, working and socialising with like-minded people from a variety of backgrounds so this really motivates me because I'm a person who enjoys the satisfaction of delivering great quality service and at the same time have fun with the children and my teammates. At the same time, they provide me accommodation, food and a weekly wage so this really motivates me (Rockley, 2018). On the other hand, Challenger Sports has been coaching during the last past 25 years and now a days is as well a big company in placements abroad among all the USA states. This company really interests me because I feel I can gain lots of coaching skills in a foreign country and later bring them to the European culture. The positive things are that they provide us accommodation, food and a good wage. And the negatives are that the flight and visa cost a lot of money (Challenger, 2016).

I love tour is an events organisation, they provide opportunities in Italy, Croatia and Prague, in all those countries four nights' accommodation and meals are included. I will be managing sports events, this can help me with my development in the sports industry career in terms of organisation, gain more confidence with people, managing hard situations, etc. Nevertheless, this placement did not convince me a lot because they just offer 2 or 3 weeks in each country, and this does not cover my degree placement requirements, the solution they advised me is to do their placement in three different countries, but I prefer to settle in one country, because I will feel more comfortable if I work with the people that I am going to meet in my first week rather than keep on changing.

The Canary Islands is an interesting option because I can combine both languages, Spanish and English, this will permit me being more confident with people and develop new skills more easily. I have look at two options, Ales (2019) focused more on sports customers services and interaction with the guests in hotels, while SWEP organisations main task will be the supervision of international guests during sport activities, such as, organization of tournaments in football, beach volleyball, handball and hockey, also in the organization of weekly sports program I will assist and help in the fitness lessons (SWEP, 2019). I will work 40 hours with both organisations and have two days off a week, accommodation, catering and the hotel is free. In addition, I will receive a pocket money of 280 € per month.

In conclusion, all placements interest me, because all of them provide me essential benefits facing my future as a person and in my sports management career, the problem is that I cannot afford volunteering or not paid placements this year because of lack of money, but they are still an option for the future. So

finally, I will have to decide between Rockley, Ales or SWEP because they are the unique organisations that suits my requirements for this year.

3. Part B

3.1 Qualifications Audit

Through the years I have gain some qualifications, in 2014 I gained the B2 First English certificate, moreover, the general certificate of secondary Education/Spanish in 2015 and finally in 2017 I achieve the school General Certificate of Education/Spanish school. All these qualifications have given me the opportunity to come to Wales for studying sports management.

3.2 Training Needs Analysis

For a training needs analysis is needed a 'training strategy' which is the term used to describe the processes for training and education in a workplace. A training strategy should be planned (Pedder, 1998). That is why I have planned mine, it includes developing the habit to make better decisions in hard or unexpected situations when coaching with children or managing events, gaining new skills that I have never practised before such as windsurf and boat skills, learning how to manage time in a more productive way, and widen my understanding within the sports industry.

3.3 Personal Career Action Plan

The Personal Development Plan (PDP) gives an overview of the competencies the employee is planning, serving as a decision-making tool for the future which helps to assess the suitability of each individual. According to Beausaert (2011) there are nine clusters of goals, including: reflective learning; providing evidence; professional development; documenting; certification, selection and promotion; coaching; external mobility; stimulating confidence; and organizing.

Date Personal Development Plan Completed:

Part 1 – Personal analysis.

Strengths	Areas for further development
As a person since a young age I have always liked to work in teams, so this let me work with many types of different people, as well as being a perfect team worker. I have always been confident on myself, and I know that if you work hard on something you will get it because of personal experiences, so I adapt this to any type of job. The experience I have acquire in my ongoing sports management degree have given me the facility to be more confident when applying coaching methods. I gained leadership working with ARC recruitment because I had the opportunity to manage a new sports and leisure field for me, I feel I can transmit a powerful leading to each organisation.	Develop the habit to make better decisions in hard or unexpected situations when coaching with children or managing events. New skills that I have never practised before such as windsurf and boat skills. Learn how to manage time in a more productive way, so that the company gain as much as they can. Create an international network to develop future contacts.
Opportunities	Threats
Demonstrate that I can be a valid hard worker able to gain new skills rapidly even if I do not know anything about it. Show my management abilities gained in my degree and with ARC recruitment. The company will provide me a water sports training of one week before the placement. Gain new contacts for my future career.	Being in a foreign country without knowing their native language. Do not know how to do wind surf and boat ship. Do not receive any wage from organisations.

Part 2 – Setting Goals

What do I want to learn?	What do I have to do?	What support and resources will I need?	How will I measure success?	Target date for review?
Water sports qualifications.	-RYA start windsurfing instructor.	- Five days course which includes equipment and training. -Exam fees and certificates (Rockley, 2018).	When I finished the five days course and I will get my certificate.	After placement.
	-RYA first aid.	-One day course (Rockley, 2018).	-Having the first aid Certificate and more important feeling at the end that I know everything they have told me during the course.	13 th of April
Widen my understanding within sports industry.	Complete the future placement.	Rockley, Ales or SWEP support with the guidance they will give me.	Finishing the placement with good sensations.	July of 2019
	Give the 100% in my ongoing degree.	-Support from lecturers. -Lectures, Articles, books, etc.	Finishing the degree, with more knowledge about the sports industry.	June of 2020
Gain more decision-making skills in unexpected situations.	Put myself under pressure more often.	New jobs or assignments.	Showing myself that I decide more rapidly in hard situations.	June of 2020
	Try things I have never done before.	New projects.	Showing myself that I decide better in hard situations.	June of 2020
Learn to manage events more effectively.	Gain knowledge about sporting events	-Support from lecturers. -Lectures, Articles, books, etc.	Seeing an improvement.	June of 2020

Increase my fitness.	Continue with my gym membership.	Support and feedback from my personal trainer.	Seeing improvements in my body, i.e. more cardiovascular endurance, more muscular mass, etc.	30 th of June
	Research new exercises from new websites and books to increase muscular volume.	Books, Journals, Websites, etc.	Seeing an improvement in my knowledge and body.	Annually
About feedback.	Learn about feedback at the end of my placement.	My teammates and bosses.	If next time I am in the same situations, I do things better.	After placement.

Part 3 – Personal Objectives

Short Term Goals (next 12 months)
Complete the sports management degree in order to learn more and more about the sports industry, and to become an important person in the future with the highest objectives to be the best in what I do.
Medium Term Goals (next 2 – 3 years)
After doing the 2019 placement I will take into consideration my plans, if for example I like the water sports field I will carry on through that way. Nevertheless, I have thought on doing an internship of one year with an events sports organisation in order to gain as much experience as possible within business and the sports events world facing my future objectives.
Longer Term Goals (beyond 3 years)
With the experienced gained I will try to do an internship of one year with a big company such as Rebook, Adidas or ESPN, all these companies demand interns with at least two years of experience within the sports industry.

3.4 Curriculum Vitae and Cover Letter

Having a good CV and a cover letter are useful to achieve your dream job as it is the first impression you give to an organisation, nevertheless, if you upload a wrong CV or cover letter you will have less chances to obtain that certain job. Some common mistakes are sending the same CV and cover letter to every job we applied because depending on the company you applied, they will demand different skills, that is why a research on the company you are looking for and do some tweaking in order to better match the job description is fundamental. Furthermore, an employer will not always read the full CV, that is why the first section about your personal profile is one of the most important and in which you must give a good impression. Grammar mistakes are a common mistake from appliers, so a revision is necessary even if you think it is already good Corfield (2003).

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An ambitious Sports Managements undergraduate student with big ambitions within the sports industry. I am looking for a placement that can supply me new skills in event management and coaching so that I gain more knowledge about sports industry, teamwork, communication and develop problem-solving skills. Living away from my native country (Spain) has made me a more efficient and determined person. I play many different types of sports, which is why I can gain new skills easily and work as a team with many different types of people.

Work experience

October/2018 – January/2019 ARC Recruitment

Key Responsibilities:

- Learned how to manage sports, leisure and entertainment environment.
- Worked in teams dealing with clients and solving their problems.
- Worked with customers in a professional manner at the Principality Stadium.
- Managed uncomfortable situations, such as dealing with drunk people.

February/ 2018 – June/ 2018 Labourer in a private house

Key Responsibilities:

- Managed material.
- Helped my boss with different type of tasks, such as built the roof, paint the house, etc.
- Cleaned the house so that always looks tidy.
- Received material from providers.

March/ 2016 – June/ 2016 Real estate agent – El Viso Inmobiliaria

Key Responsibilities:

- Dealt with clients about their best house option.
- Helped customers on their decisions in person and by phone.
- Showed houses to clients.

Education & qualifications

- September 2017 – Ongoing BA Sports Management University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- September 2015- June 2017 General Certificate of Education/Spanish school.
- 2014 - B2 First English certificate.
- September 2011 – June 2015 General certificate of secondary Education/Spanish school.

Interests & Hobbies

Sports has been everything to me, that's why I have been playing for Arquitectura rugby club since I was 12 years old. Furthermore, I trained with the Spanish rugby selection and now a days I play for Mumbles rugby club. Since a young age water sports have been really integrated in my live, practising sports like bodysurf and very interested in surfing, moreover, every summer I do kayak with my family. As well, I keep practising other sports such as football, tennis, bike, basketball, volleyball, badminton, climbing and other team games. Other interests that passionate me are travelling, painting and music.

Cover Letter

I am interested in working as an event manager at SWEP centre, I am currently studying my second year in sports management where I have learned about event management, by creating our own events for example I created a rugby event with a gauging of 5.000 people. In my actual job ARC recruitment, I have gain experience that can be contributed into SWEP event management field, such as manage creative solutions to run events much more dynamical, and see the customer always enjoying our services. Furthermore, I am a sports lover, since a young age I have been doing all kind of sports, that is why I am passionate on learning new skills in the event sports industry.

A position with SWEP would be beneficial to both of us. My willingness to work hard, learn and interest in the sports industry, makes me an ideal candidate for this position. You can be assured that I will give you 120%. Thank you for your careful consideration of my application.

Sincerely,

Pablo.

3.5 Pre-Placement Review

For my pre-placement I have done a risk assessment review about the placement opportunity I am going to go, including individual factors like lower knowledge about the work I will do; work factors such as hazards around the place of work; local factors such as the risk civil crime in South Africa; insurance factors such as locations and activities, etc.; environmental health factors such as venomous plants, animals, etc; transportation factors such as demanding travel during placement; and safeguarding factors such as infrequent contact with children or adults.

Furthermore, I have research and known which placements I can do according to the risk assessment and this has let me to narrowing my choices down to three organisations, Ales, SWEP and Rockley.

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