



# Solvay Credited Internship

*Interview with Jocelyne Tran, an MA2 student in Business Economics who undertook her Credited Internship at Brussels Airport*

## Words from Jocelyne Tran

Jocelyne Tran is a second year Master in Business Economics student at Solvay Brussels School. Gaining quantitative skills during her bachelor Degree in Economics she also had the opportunity to learn through her classes in statistics, econometrics and micro/macroeconomics courses. Thanks to her classes of Financial Market & Services with Risk Management and Financial econometrics, she discovered affinities in specific topics.

*In parallel, she selected a second track in EU Regulation and Economy. Her interest in both Finance and Economics fields motivated her to apply for an internship that was related to at least one of these two topics.*

In close collaboration with the Safety Management Unit of Brussels Airport Company, I have created a methodology that can help fairly distribute money from the European Commission. The Connecting European Facilities Transport Call aims to distribute funds among 25 qualifying airports based on their safety performance. This new methodology intends to allocate money from the European Commission in a fair manner, while giving insight on new ways to "evaluate" safety performance by external stakeholders. It represents an improvement on how the money should be distributed between airports in order to achieve the main goal: the Single European sky.

I was also charged with creating a framework that links Aviation Safety measures with their financial benefits, which Brussels Airport will be able to employ, with the support of experts from Eurocontrol and SESAR Deployment Manager. The Safety benefits case could help Brussels Airport Company to prove the existence of benefits of new investment.

## Credited Internship at SBS-EM

The CIP is a program organized for Master students in order to get significant work experience before entering the job market.

This internship is made for students in 4 majors of Business Economics, Management Science and Business Engineering and Economic Analysis & European Policy.

**Duration:** One semester (min 16 weeks) up to 6 months (24 weeks), Full-time

**When:** First or second semester, second year of Master education

[More information here](#)



If your company wants to dive into this great collaborative adventure contact the [Career Services Office!](#)

## Interview

### Does theory meet practice?

Throughout my internship, some basic theoretical skills and knowledge acquired at Solvay Brussels School turned out to be useful, even though at the beginning I had difficulties to see the link between the two. The school succeeded in teaching us to quickly understand all sorts of matters and, most importantly, to develop a critical mind towards applying theories into real-life challenges. There is obviously a difference between theory and reality but I would say that they go along well together when you get a good quality of education.

The school gave us a solid background and allowed us to gain confidence to face challenging environments. During my internship, I used my capacity to analyse available data and to solve problems by applying economics and statistics concepts. Nonetheless, because it is not possible for the university to teach everything, I still needed to do a lot of research to adapt theories to real-life.

### How did you decide to apply for this kind of job?

The project proposed by Brussels Airport was a unique opportunity to have a first-hand encounter with the aviation industry. The company, through its unique market position, has an important role in the Belgian GDP, making this internship very relevant with my background in economics and finance. On the one hand, the challenging dimension of my assignment attracted me and, on the other hand, the continuous learning process stimulated my curiosity. Being an enthusiastic person, I was eager to work on projects that have never been done before and to stand alongside people that take initiative and are proactive in addressing problems.

### Why did you choose Solvay?

I was always interested in economics and I wanted to understand the mechanism behind it. Solvay was well-known for its quantitative-focused courses. Hence, by moving to Brussels, I discovered an international culture while, at the same time, strengthening my knowledge in economics and statistics during my Bachelor degree. Moreover, through the Business economics master, I improved my

knowledge in both EU Regulation and Financial markets, skills that will be very valuable in achieving my future goals.

### Did the company expect specific skills from you?

The company was looking for someone with analytical skills and a good ability in working with numbers. In addition, because my manager and supervisor knew the assignment was challenging, they wanted someone very enthusiastic with a can-do mindset. I think they particularly expected me to be creative and to be able to find alternatives when hitting a roadblock.

### What was the biggest challenge?

Despite the challenging environmental of the aviation industry, I would say the biggest difficulty was to understand how to create a framework in order to quantify benefits of safety measures into monetized items. The origin of this problem was the fact we did not know where we were going to end up, as nothing similar has been done before. It was not possible to rely on a previous study.

### Can you give us a career reflection?

This experience in the company was aligned with my career goals and my professional project. I wanted to start my professional experience either in economics or in finance and thanks to this internship I got the chance to create a model based on my economics and statistics knowledge. Before the internship, I had a vague desire to do a traineeship, but now, with my experience, my ambition to apply for traineeships in economics and to work with figures has been strengthened. This would allow me to accumulate even more experience in this area.

### Do you have any advice to give to students who want to enroll into a CIP?

I would advise not hesitating. Completing a credited internship helps people figure out their strengths and their weaknesses, before entering the labour market. It provides the opportunity to meet people that could have an important role in your future prospects. Do not be afraid to take on challenges as you will be rewarded with a great sense of achievement once you have solved them.