

Work experience in Poland

A journey to self-confidence



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I wanted to get a traineeship abroad during my summer holidays. So I applied for an IAESTE traineeship in Cracow, Poland, and was luckily accepted. IAESTE is a wonderful opportunity for everyone who wishes to gain first work experience abroad.

The flight from Zurich airport to Cracow took only 2 hours. Three girls from IAESTE Poland met me at the airport and showed me the student campus. I lived there in a room with a Bosnian girl. On the 4th and the 5th floor we were about 30 IAESTE-trainees from all over the world: Switzerland, Austria, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Spain, Russia, China and Columbia among others. On some evenings we had our «international evenings». Two or more trainees cooked a couple of traditional meals and presented their own country. On the Swiss evening what could have been more traditional than a Swiss cheese fondue?

Guided work experience

For 8 weeks I worked in a company called Grupa Onet. pl SA in Cracow, which calls itself a leader in media queries and mobile solutions in Poland. Around 200 employees are working in the company. I worked 40 hours a week and 8 hours a day in the Unix Administration Team. One member of the team was my tutor. On the one hand he was really challenging me but on the other hand he was answering all my questions and gave me enough time for the completion of my tasks. The team I was

working in was using a mix of both project methods Scrum and Kanban. Every team-member knew exactly what they had to do and what the others were doing thanks to the Kanban board. And we held daily Scrum meetings, so called «stand-ups». Every morning at about 10am the whole team met in front of the Kanban board and everyone explained in one minute what he had done the day before and what he was going to do during the day. I worked on virtual Ubuntu servers in Oracle Virtual Box and learned the basic Linux skills. I learned how to install and configure Apache2, PHP5, phpMyAdmin, Wordpress, Pure-FTPd and a lot more. Finally I was able to install two monitoring systems «Zabbix» and «graphite». The latter monitoring system was also used in the productive system in the Data Center.

At the end of my stay my team showed me the Data Center buildings on the other side of the city. We visited all the different parts of the Data Center. The fuel tank, which operates continuously for 36 hours and can be refuelled while the generators are in operation, the gas detector, the server rooms and the Data Centre office.

I chose IAESTE for my traineeship, because everything was well organized. I am happy for the work experience I made and for all the people I met. I would recommend this experience to everyone. All in all I became a much more self-confident and independent person.

Contact

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About IAESTE

IAESTE is an organization for the exchange of students at higher education institutions wishing to obtain technical experience abroad.

Info: iaeste.ch



Wawel Cathedral and Castle in Cracow